

T H E
CONSTITUTIONS

O F T H E
SEVERAL INDEPENDENT STATES

O F
A M E R I C A;

T H E
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE;

T H E
ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
BETWEEN THE SAID STATES;

T H E
TREATIES BETWEEN HIS MOST CHRISTIAN
MAJESTY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
—AND THE TREATIES BETWEEN THEIR HIGH
MIGHTINESSES THE STATES GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

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A COLLECTION of the CONSTITUTIONS of the
THIRTEEN UNITED STATES, &c.

N E W - H A M P H S I R E .

P A R T I .

The B I L L of R I G H T S .

ARTICLE I.

ALL Men are born equally free and independent ; therefore, all government of right originates from the people, is founded in consent, and instituted for the general good.

2. All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights ; among which are---the enjoying and defending life and liberty---acquiring, possessing and protecting property---and in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness.

3. When men enter into a state of society, they surrender up some of their natural rights to that society in order to ensure the protection of others ; and, without such an equivalent, the surrender is void.

4. Among the natural rights, some are in their very nature unalienable, because no equivalent can be giving or received for them. Of this kind are the rights of conscience.

5. Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and reason ; and no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained in his person, liberty or estate for worshipping God, in the manner and season most agreeable to the dic-

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tates of his own conscience, or for his religious profession, sentiments or persuasion ; provided he does not disturb the public peace, or disturb others in their religious worship.

6. As morality and piety, rightly grounded on evangelical principles, will give the best and greatest security to government, and will lay in the hearts of men the strongest obligations to due subjection ; and as the knowledge of these, is most likely to be propagated through a society by the institution of the public worship of the *Deity*, and of public instruction in morality and religion ; therefore, to promote those important purposes, the people of this state have a right to empower, and do hereby fully empower the legislature to authorize from time to time, the several towns, parishes, bodies-corporate, or religious societies within this state, to make adequate provision at their own expence, for the support and maintenance of public protestant teachers of piety, religion and morality :

Provided notwithstanding, That the several towns, parishes, bodies-corporate, or religious societies, shall at all times have the exclusive right of electing their own public teachers, and of contracting with them for their support and maintenance. And no person of any one particular religious sect or denomination, shall ever be compelled to pay towards the support of the teacher or teachers of another persuasion, sect or denomination.

And every denomination of christians demeaning themselves quietly, and as good subjects of the state, shall be equally under the protection of the law : And no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another, shall ever be established by law.

And nothing herein shall be understood to affect any former contracts made for the support of the ministry ; but all such contracts shall remain, and be in the same state as if this Constitution had not been made.

7. The people of this state, have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign and independent State, and do, and forever hereafter shall exercise and enjoy every power jurisdiction and right pertaining thereto, which is not, or may not hereafter be by them expressly delegated to the United States of America in Congress assembled.

8. All power residing originally in, & being derived from the people, all the magistrates and officers of government,

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are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them.

9. No office or place whatsoever in government, shall be hereditary—the abilities and integrity requisite in all, not being transmissible to posterity or relations.

10. Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought, to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

11. All elections ought to be free, and every inhabitant of the State having the proper qualifications, has equal right to elect, and be elected into office.

12. Every member of the community has a right to be protected in the enjoyment of his life, liberty and property; he is therefore bound to contribute his share in the expence of such protection, & to yield his personal service when necessary or an equivalent. But no part of a man's property shall be taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of the representative body of the people. Nor are the inhabitants of this state controulable by any other laws than those to which they or their representative body have given their consent.

13. No person who is conscientiously scrupulous about the lawfulness of bearing arms, shall be compelled thereto, provided he will pay an equivalent.

14. Every subject of this state is entitled to a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws for all injuries he may receive in his person, property or character, to obtain right and justice freely, without being obliged to purchase it; completely, and without any denial; promptly, and without delay, conformably to the laws.

15. No subject shall be held to answer for any crime, or offence, until the same is fully and plainly, substantially and formally described to him; or be compelled to accuse or furnish evidence against himself. And every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favourable to himself;

himself; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defence by himself, and counsel. And no subject shall be arrested, imprisoned, despoiled, or deprived of his property, immunities, or privileges, put out of the protection of the law, exiled or deprived of his life, liberty or estate, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

16. No subject shall be liable to be tried, after an acquittal, for the same crime or offence. Nor shall the legislature make any law that shall subject any person to a capital punishment, excepting for the government of the army and navy, and the militia in actual service, without trial by jury.

17. In criminal prosecutions, the trial of facts in the vicinity where they happen, is so essential to the security of the life, liberty and estate of the citizen, that no crime or offence ought to be tried in any other county than that in which it is committed; except in cases of general insurrection in any particular county, when it shall appear to the judges of the superior court, that an impartial trial cannot be had in the county where the offence may be committed, and upon their report, the assembly shall think proper to direct the trial in the nearest county in which an impartial trial can be obtained.

18. All penalties ought to be proportioned to the nature of the offence. No wise legislature will affix the same punishment to the crimes of theft, forgery and the like, which they do to those of murder and treason; where the same undistinguished severity is exerted against all offences; the people are led to forget the real distinction in the crimes themselves, and to commit the most flagrant with as little compunction as they do those of the lightest dye: For the same reason a multitude of sanguinary laws is both impolitic and unjust. The true design of all punishments being to reform, not to exterminate, mankind.

19. Every subject hath a right to be secure from all unreasonable searches and seizures of his person, his houses, his papers and all his possessions. All warrants, therefore are contrary to this right, if the cause or foundation of them be not previously supported by oath, or affirmation; and if the order in the warrant to a civil officer, to make search in suspected places, or to arrest one or more suspected persons, or

to seize their property, be not accompanied with a special designation of the persons or objects of search, arrest or seizure ; and no warrant ought to be issued but in cases, and with the formalities prescribed by the laws.

20. In all controversies concerning property, and in all suits between two or more persons, except in cases in which it has been heretofore otherwise used and practised, the parties have a right to a trial by jury ; and this method of procedure shall be held sacred, unless in causes arising on the high seas, and such as relate to mariners wages, the legislature shall think it necessary hereafter to alter it.

21. In order to reap the fullest advantage of the inestimable privilege of the trial by JURY, great care ought to be taken that none but qualified persons should be appointed to serve ; and such ought to be fully compensated for their travel, time and attendance.

22. The liberty of the press is essential to the security of freedom in a state ; it ought therefore to be inviolably preserved.

23. Retrospective laws are highly injurious, oppressive and unjust. No such laws therefore should be made, either for the decision of civil causes, or the punishment of offences.

24. A well regulated militia is the proper, natural, and sure defence of a state.

25. Standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without the consent of the legislature.

26. In all cases, and at all times, the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and governed by the civil power.

27. No soldier in time of peace shall be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner ; and in time of war such quarters ought not to be made but by the civil magistrate, in a manner ordained by the legislature.

28. No subsidy, charge, tax, impost or duty shall be established, fixed, laid, or levied, under any pretext whatsoever, without the consent of the people or their representatives in the legislature, or authority derived from that body.

29. The power of suspending the laws, or the execution of them, ought never to be exercised but by the legislature, or by authority derived therefrom, to be exercised in such particular cases only as the legislature shall expressly provide for.

Constitution of New-Hampshire.

30. The freedom of deliberation, speech and debate, in either house of the legislature, is so essential to the rights of the people, that it cannot be the foundation of any action, complaint, or prosecution, in any other court or place whatsoever.

31. The legislature ought frequently to assemble for the redress of grievances, for correcting, strengthening and confirming the laws, and for making new ones, as the common good may require.

32. The people have a right in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble and consult upon the common good, give instructions to their representatives; and to request of the legislative body, by way of petition or remonstrance, redress of the wrongs done them, and of the grievances they suffer.

33. No magistrate or court of law shall demand excessive bail or sureties, impose excessive fines, or inflict cruel or unusual punishments.

34. No person can in any case be subjected to law-martial, or to any pains or penalties by virtue of that law, except those employed in the army or navy, and except the militia in actual service, but by authority of the legislature.

35. It is essential to the preservation of the rights of every individual, his life, liberty, property and character, that there be an impartial interpretation of the laws, and administration of justice. It is the right of every citizen to be tried by judges as impartial as the lot of humanity will admit. It is therefore not only the best policy but for the security of the rights of the people, that the judges of the supreme (or superior) judicial court should hold their offices so long as they behave well; and that they should have honorable salaries, ascertained and established by standing laws.

36. Oeconomy being a most essential virtue in all states, especially in a young one; no pension shall be granted, but in consideration of actual services, and such pensions ought to be granted with great caution, by the legislature, and never for more than one year at a time.

37. In the government of this state, the three essential powers thereof, *to wit*, the legislative, executive and judicial ought to be kept as separate from and independent of each

each other, as the nature of a free government will admit, or as is consistent with that chain of connexion that binds the whole fabric of the constitution in one indissoluble bond of unity and amity.

38. A frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of the constitution, and a constant adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry, frugality, and all the social virtues, are indispensably necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and good government; the people ought therefore, to have a particular regard to all those principles in the choice of their officers and representatives: And they have a right to require of their law-givers and magistrates, an exact and constant observance of them in the formation and execution of the laws necessary for the good administration of government.

P A R T II.

The FORM of GOVERNMENT.

THE people inhabiting the territory formerly called the the province of New-Hampshire, do hereby solemnly and mutually agree with each other, to form themselves into a free, sovereign, and independent body-politic or state, by the name of the *State of New-Hampshire*.

THE GENERAL COURT.

The supreme legislative power within this state shall be vested in the senate and house of representatives, each of which shall have a negative on the other.

The senate and house shall assemble every year on the first Wednesday of June, and at such other times as they may judge necessary; and shall dissolve, and be dissolved, seven days next preceding the said first Wednesday of June; and shall be styled, *The General Court of New-Hampshire*.

The general court shall forever have full power and authority to erect and constitute judicatories and courts of record, or other courts, to be holden in the name of the state, for the hearing, trying, and determining all manner of crimes, offences, pleas, processes, complaints, actions, causes, matters, and things whatsoever, arising, or happening within this state, or between or concerning persons inhabiting

or residing, or brought within the same, whether the same be criminal or civil, or whether the crimes be capital, or not capital, and whether the said pleas be real, personal, or mixed; and for the awarding and issuing execution thereon. To which courts and judicatories are hereby given and granted full power and authority, from time to time to administer oaths or affirmations, for the better discovery of truth in any matter in controversy, or depending before them.

And farther, full power and authority are hereby given and granted to the said general court, from time to time, to make, ordain, and establish, all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes, ordinances, directions and instructions, either with penalties or without; so as the same may be not repugnant, or contrary to this constitution, as they may judge for the benefit and welfare of this state, and for the governing and ordering thereof, and of the subjects of the same, for the necessary support and defence of the government thereof; and to name and settle annually, or provide by fixed laws, for the naming and settling all civil officers within this state; such officers excepted, the election and appointment of whom, are hereafter in this form of government otherwise provided for; and to set forth the several duties, powers and limits, of the several civil and military officers of this state, and the forms of such oaths or affirmations, as shall be respectively administered unto them for the execution of their several offices and places, so as the same be not repugnant or contrary to this constitution; and also to impose fines, mulcts, imprisonments, and other punishments; and to impose and levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates and taxes, upon all the inhabitants of, and residents within the said state; and upon all estates within the same; to be issued and disposed of by warrant under the hand of the President of this state for the time being, with the advice and consent of the council, for the public service, in the necessary defence and support of the government of this state, and the protection and preservation of the subjects thereof, according to such acts as are, or shall be in force within the same.

And while the public charges of government or any part thereof, shall be assessed on polls and estates in the manner that has heretofore been practised; in order that such as-

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assessments may be made with equality, there shall be a valuation of the estates within the state taken anew once in every five years at least, and as much oftener as the general court shall order.

S E N A T E.

There shall be annually elected by the freeholders and other inhabitants of this state, qualified as in this constitution is provided, twelve persons to be senators for the year ensuing their election; to be chosen in and by the inhabitants of the districts into which this state may from time to time be divided by the general court, for that purpose: And the general court in assigning the number to be elected by the respective districts, shall govern themselves by the proportion of public taxes paid by the said districts, and timely make known to the inhabitants of the state, the limits of each district and the number of senators to be elected therein; provided the number of such districts shall never be more than ten, nor less than five.

And the several counties in this state, shall until the general court shall order otherwise, be districts for the election of senators, and shall elect the following number, viz.

Rockingham, five.—Strafford, two.—Hillsborough, two.—Cheshire, two.—Grafton, one.

The senate shall be the first branch of the legislature: And the senators shall be chosen in the following manner, viz. Every male inhabitant of each town and parish with town privileges in the several counties in this state, of twenty one years of age & upwards, paying for himself a poll tax, shall have a right at the annual or other meetings of the inhabitants of said towns and parishes, to be duly warned and holden annually forever in the month of March; to vote in the town or parish wherein he dwells, for the senators in the county or district whereof he is a member.

And every person qualified as the constitution provides, shall be considered an inhabitant for the purpose of electing and being elected into any office or place within this state, in that town, parish and plantation where he dwelleth and hath his home.

The selectmen of the several towns and parishes aforesaid, shall during the choice of senators, preside at such meetings impartially.

impartially, and shall receive the votes of all the inhabitants of such towns and parishes present and qualified to vote for senators, and shall sort and count the same in the meeting, and in presence of the town-clerk, who shall make a fair record in presence of the selectmen, and in open meeting, of the name of every person voted for, and the number of votes against his name; and a fair copy of this record shall be attested by the selectmen and town-clerk, and shall be sealed up and directed to the secretary of the state, with a superscription expressing the purport thereof, and delivered by said clerk to the sheriff of the county in which such town or parish lies, thirty days at least, before the first Wednesday of June; and the sheriff of each county, or his deputy, shall deliver all such certificates by him received, into the secretary's office, seventeen days at least, before the first Wednesday of June.

And the inhabitants of plantations and places unincorporated, qualified as this constitution provides, who are or shall be required to assess taxes upon themselves towards the support of government, or shall be taxed therefor, shall have the same privilege of voting for senators in the plantations and places wherein they reside, as the inhabitants of the respective towns and parishes aforesaid have. And the meetings of such plantations and places for that purpose, shall be holden annually in the month of March, at such places respectively therein, as the assessors thereof shall direct; which assessors shall have like authority for notifying the electors, collecting and returning the votes, as the selectmen and town-clerks have in their several towns by this constitution.

And, that there may be a due meeting of senators on the first Wednesday of June annually, the President and three of the council for the time being, shall as soon as may, examine the returned copies of such records; and fourteen days before the said first Wednesday of June, he shall issue his summons to such persons as appear to be chosen senators by a majority of votes, to attend and take their seats on that day: Provided nevertheless, that for the first year the said returned copies shall be examined by the President and five of the council of the former constitution of government; and the said President shall in like manner notify the persons elected, to attend and take their seats accordingly.

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The senate shall be final judges of the elections, returns, and qualifications of their own members, as pointed out in this constitution, and shall on the said first Wednesday of June annually, determine and declare, who are elected by each district to be senators by a majority of votes: And in case there shall not appear to be the full number returned elected by a majority of votes for any district, the deficiency shall be supplied in the following manner, viz. The members of the house of representatives, and such senators as shall be declared elected, shall take the names of such persons as shall be found to have the highest number of votes in each district, and not elected, amounting to twice the number of senators wanting, if there be so many voted for; and out of these shall elect by joint ballot the number of senators wanted for such district: And in this manner all such vacancies shall be filled up in every district of the state, and in like manner all vacancies in the senate, arising by death, removal out of the state, or otherwise, shall be supplied as soon as may be after such vacancies happen.

Provided nevertheless, That no person shall be capable of being elected a senator, who is not of the Protestant religion, and seized of a freehold estate in his own right of the value of *two hundred pounds*, lying within this state, who is not of the age of thirty years, and who shall not have been an inhabitant of this state for seven years immediately preceding his election; and at the time thereof he shall be an inhabitant of the district for which he shall be chosen.

The senate shall have power to adjourn themselves, provided such adjournment do not exceed two days at a time.

The senate shall appoint their own officers, & determine their own rules of proceedings. And not less than seven members of the senate shall make a quorum for doing business; and when less than eight senators shall be present, the assent of five at least shall be necessary to render their acts and proceedings valid.

The senate shall be a court with full power and authority to hear and determine all impeachments made by the house of representatives, against any officer or officers of the state, for misconduct or mal-administration in their offices. But previous to the trial of any such impeachment, the members of the senate shall respectively be sworn, truly and impartially to try and determine the charge in question

tion according to evidence. Their judgment, however, shall not extend farther than removal from office, disqualification to hold or enjoy any place of honor, trust or profit under this state ; but the party so convicted, shall nevertheless be liable to indictment, trial, judgment, and punishment, according to the laws of the land.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

There shall be in the legislature of this state a representation of the people annually elected and founded upon principles of equality : And in order that such representation may be as equal as circumstances will admit, every town, parish, or place entitled to town privileges, having one hundred & fifty rateable male polls, of twenty-one years of age, and upwards may elect one representative ; if four hundred and fifty rateable polls, may elect two representatives ; and so proceeding in that proportion, making three hundred such rateable polls the mean increasing number, for every additional representative.

Such towns, parishes or places, as have less than one hundred and fifty rateable polls, shall be classed by the general assembly for the purpose of chusing a representative, and seasonably notified thereof. And in every class formed for the above-mentioned purpose, the first annual meeting shall be held in the town, parish, or place where in most of the rateable polls reside ; and afterwards in that which has the next highest number, and so on annually by rotation, through the several towns, parishes or places, forming the district.

Whenever any town, parish or place, intitled to town privileges as aforesaid, shall not have one hundred and fifty rateable polls, and be so situated as to render the classing thereof with any other town, parish, or place very inconvenient, the general assembly may upon application of a majority of the voters in such town, parish or place, issue a writ for their electing and sending a representative to the general court.

The members of the house of representatives shall be chosen annually in the month of March, and shall be the second branch of the legislature. All persons qualified to vote in the election of senators shall be entitled to vote with-

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in the town, district, parish or place, where they dwell, in the choice of representatives. Every member of the house of representatives shall be chosen by ballot; and for two years at least next preceding his election, shall have been an inhabitant of this state, shall have an estate within the town, parish or place, which he may be chosen to represent, of the value of *one hundred pounds*, one half of which to be a freehold, whereof he is seized in his own right; shall be at the time of his election, an inhabitant of the town, parish or place, he may be chosen to represent; shall be of the Protestant religion, and shall cease to represent such town, parish or place, immediately on his ceasing to be qualified as aforesaid.

The travel of each representative to the general assembly, and returning home, once in every session, and no more, shall be at the expence of the state, and the wages for his attendance, at the expence of the town, parish or places, he represents; such members attending seasonably, and not departing without licence. All intermediate vacancies in the house of representatives, may be filled up from time to time, in the same manner as annual elections are made.

The house of representatives shall be the grand inquest of the state, and all impeachments made by them, shall be heard and tried by the senate.

All money bills shall originate in the house of representatives, but the senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.

The house of representatives shall have power to ajourn themselves, but no longer than two days at a time.

A majority of the members of the house of representatives shall be a quorum for doing business: but when less than two thirds of the representatives elected shall be present, the assent of two thirds of those members shall be necessary to render their acts and proceedings valid.

No member of the house of representatives or senate, shall be arrested, or held to bail on mean process, during his going to, returning from, or attendance upon the court.

The house of representatives shall chuse their own speaker, appoint their own officers and settle the rules of proceedings in their own house. They shall have authority to punish by imprisonment, every person who shall be guilty of disrespect to the house in its presence, by any disorderly
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and contemptuous behaviour, or by threatening or ill treating any of its members ; or by obstructing its deliberations ; every person guilty of a breach of its privileges in making arrests for debt, or by assaulting any member during his attendance at any session ; in assaulting or disturbing any one of its officers in the execution of any order or procedure of the house, in assaulting any witness or other person, ordered to attend by and during his attendance of the house, or in rescuing any person arrested by order of the house, knowing them to be such. The senate, President and council, shall have the same powers in like cases ; provided that no imprisonment by either, for any offence, exceed ten days.

The journals of the proceedings of both houses of the general court, shall be printed and published, immediately after every adjournment, or prorogation ; and upon motion made by any one member, the yeas and nays upon any question, shall be taken and entered in the journals.

EXECUTIVE POWER.

PRESIDENT.

There shall be a supreme executive magistrate, who shall be styled; the President of the state of New-Hampshire ; and whose title shall be his Excellency.

The President shall be chosen annually ; and no person shall be eligible to this office, unless at the time of his election, he shall have been an inhabitant of this state for seven years next preceding ; and unless he shall be of the age of thirty years ; and unless he shall, at the same time, have an estate of the value of five hundred pounds, one half of which shall consist of a freehold, in his own right, within the state ; and unless he shall be of the protestant religion.

Those persons qualified to vote for senators and representatives, shall within the several towns, parishes or places, where they dwell, at a meeting to be called for that purpose, some day in the month of March annually, give in their votes for a President to the selectmen, who shall preside at such meeting, and the clerk, in the presence and with the assistance of the selectmen, shall in open meeting sort and count the votes, and form a list of the persons voted,

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for, with the number of votes for each person against his name, and shall make a fair record of the same in the town books, and a public declaration thereof in the said meeting; and shall in the presence of the said inhabitants, seal up a copy of said list attested by him and the selectmen, and transmit the same to the sheriff of the county, thirty days at least before the first Wednesday of June, and shall cause returns of the same to be made to the office of the secretary of the state, seventeen days at least, before said day, who shall lay the same before the senate and house of representatives on the first Wednesday of June, to be by them examined: and in case of an election by a majority of votes through the state, the choice shall be by them declared, and published; but if no person shall have a majority of votes, the house of representatives shall by ballot elect two out of four persons who had the highest number of votes, if so many shall have been voted for; but if otherwise, out of the number voted for; and make return to the senate of the two persons so elected, on which the senate shall proceed by ballot to elect one of them who shall be declared President.

The President of the state shall preside in the Senate, shall have a vote equal with any other member; and shall also have a casting vote in case of a tie.

The president with advice of council, shall have full power and authority in the recess of the general-court, to prorogue the same from time to time, not exceeding ninety days in any one recess of said court, and during session of said court to adjourn or prorogue it to any time the two houses may desire, and to call it together sooner than the time to which it may be adjourned, or prorogued, if the welfare of the state should require the same.

In cases of disagreement between the two houses, with regard to the time of adjournment, or prorogation, the President with advice of council, shall have a right to adjourn or prorogue the general court, not exceeding ninety days, at any one time, as he may determine the public good may require. And he shall dissolve the same seven days before the said first Wednesday of June. And in case of any infectious distemper prevailing in the place where the said court at any time is to convene, or any other cause where by dangers may arise to the healths or lives of the members from their attendance, the President may direct the session

session to be holden at some other the most convenient place within the state.

The President of this state for the time being, shall be Commander in Chief of the army and navy, and all the military forces of the state, by sea and land; and shall have full power by himself, or by any Chief Commander, or other officer, or officers, from time to time, to train, instruct, exercise and govern the militia and navy; and for the special defence and safety of this state, to assemble in martial array, and put in warlike posture, the inhabitants thereof, and to lead and conduct them, and with them to encounter, expulse, repel, resist, and pursue by force of arms as well by sea as by land, within and without the limits of this state; and also to kill, slay, destroy, if necessary, and conquer by all fitting ways, enterprize and means, all and every such person or persons, as shall, at any time hereafter, in a hostile manner, attempt or enterprize the destruction, invasion, detriment, or annoyance of this state; and to use and exercised over the army and navy, and over the militia in actual service; the law-martial in time of war, invasion, and also in rebellion, declared by the legislature to exist, as occasion shall necessarily require: And surprize by all ways and means whatsoever, all and every such person or persons, with their ships, arms, ammunition, and other goods as shall in a hostile manner invade or attempt the invading, conquering, or annoying this state: And in fine, the President hereby is entrusted with all other powers incident to the office of Captain-General and Commander in Chief, and admiral to be exercised agreeably to the rules and regulations of the constitution, and the laws of the land: provided that the President shall not at any time hereafter, by virtue of any power by this constitution granted, or hereafter to be granted to him by the legislature, transport any of the inhabitants of this state or oblige them to march out of the limits of the same, without their free and voluntary consent, or the consent of the general court, nor grant commissions for exercising the law-martial, in any case, without the advice and consent of the council.

The power of pardoning offences, except as such persons may be convicted of before the senate by impeachment of the house, shall be in the President by and with the advice of the council: ~~But no~~ charter of pardon granted by the President

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with advice of council, before conviction, shall avail the party pleading the same, notwithstanding any general or particular expressions contained therein, descriptive of the offence or offences intended to be pardoned.

All judicial officers, the attorney general, solicitor general, all sheriffs, coroners, registers of probate, and all officers of the navy, and general and field officers of the militia, shall be nominated and appointed by the President and council; and every such nomination shall be made at least seven days prior to such appointment, and no appointment shall take place, unless three of the council agree thereto. The captains & subalterns in the respective regiments shall be nominated and recommended by the field officers to the President, who is to issue their commissions immediately on receipt of such recommendation.

No officer, duly commissioned to command in the militia, shall be removed from his office but by the address of both houses to the President, or by fair trial in court-martial, pursuant to the laws of the state for the time being.

The commanding officers of the regiments shall appoint their adjutants and quartermasters; the brigadiers their brigade majors; the major-generals their aids; the captains and subalterns their non-commissioned officers.

The President and council, shall appoint all officers of the continental army, whom by the confederation of the united states it is provided that this state shall appoint, as also all officers of forts and garrisons.

The division of the militia into brigades, regiments and companies, made in pursuance of the militia laws now in force, shall be considered as the proper division of the militia of this state, until the same shall be altered by some future law.

No monies shall be issued out of the treasury of this state, and disposed of (except such sums as may be appropriated for the redemption of bills of credit or treasurers notes, or for the payment of interest arising thereon) but by warrant under the hand of the President for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the council, for the necessary support and defence of this state, and for the necessary protection and preservation of the inhabitants thereof, agreeably to the acts and resolves of the general court.

All public boards, the commissary-general, all superintending

session to be holden at some other the most convenient place within the state.

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All public boards, the commissary-general, all superintending

tending officers of public magazines and stores, belonging to this state, and all commanding officers of forts and garrisons within the same, shall once in every three months, officially, and without requisition, at and other times when required by the President, deliver to him an account of all goods, stores, provisions, ammunition, cannon with their appendages, & small arms with their accoutrements, and of all other public property under their care respectively; distinguishing the quantity and kind of each, as particularly as may be; together with the condition of such forts and garrisons. And the commanding officer shall exhibit to the President, when required by him; true and exact plans of such forts, and of the land and sea or harbour or harbours adjacent.

The President and council shall be compensated for their services from time to time by such grants as the general court shall think reasonable.

Permanent and honorable salaries shall be established by law for the justices of the superior court.

Whenever the chair of the President shall be vacant, by reason of his death, absence from the state, or otherwise, the senior senator for the time being shall, during such vacancy, have and exercise all the powers and authorities which by this constitution the President is vested with when personally present.

C O U N C I L.

Annually on the first meeting of the general court, two members of the senate and three from the house of representatives shall be chosen by joint ballot of both houses as a council, for advising the President in the executive part of government, whom the President for the time being, shall have full power and authority to convene from time to time, at his discretion, and the President with the counsellors, or three of them at least, shall and may from time to time hold and keep a council, for ordering and directing the affairs of the state, according to the laws of the land.

The qualifications for counsellors shall be the same as those required for senators. The members of the council shall not intermeddle with the making or trying impeachments, but shall themselves be impeachable by the house and triable by the senate for mal-conduct.

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The resolutions and advice of the council shall be recorded in a register, and signed by the members present, and this record may be called for at any time by either house of the legislature, and any member of the council may enter his opinion contrary to the resolution of the majority.

And whereas the elections appointed to be made by this constitution on the first Wednesday of June annually, by the two houses of the legislature, may not be completed on that day, the said elections may be adjourned from day to day until the same shall be completed. And the order of the elections shall be as follows, the vacancies in the senate, if any, shall be first filled up; the President shall then be elected, provided there should be no choice of him by the people: And afterwards the two houses shall proceed to the election of the council.

SECRETARY, TREASURER, COMMISSARY-GENERAL, &c.

The secretary, treasurer and commissary-general, shall be chosen by joint ballot of the senators and representatives assembled in one room.

The records of the state shall be kept in the office of the secretary, who may appoint his deputies, for whose conduct he shall be answerable, and he shall attend the President and council, the senate and representatives, in person or by deputy, as they may require.

COUNTY-TREASURER, &c:

The county-treasurer and registers of deeds shall be elected by the inhabitants of the several towns, in the several counties in the state, according to the method now practised, and the present laws of the state: And before they enter upon the business of their offices, shall be respectively sworn faithfully to discharge the duties thereof, and shall severally give bond, with sufficient sureties, in a reasonable sum for the use of the county, for the punctual performance of their respective trusts.

JUDICIARY POWER.

The tenure, that all commission officers shall have by law
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in their offices, shall be expressed in their respective commissions. All judicial officers, duly appointed, commissioned and sworn, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, excepting those concerning whom there is a different provision made in this constitution: *Provided nevertheless*, the President with consent of council, may remove them upon the address of both houses of the legislature.

Each branch of the legislature, as well as the President and council, shall have authority to require the opinions of the justices of the superior court upon important questions of law, and upon solemn occasions.

In order that the people may not suffer from the long continuance in place of any justice of the peace, who shall fail in discharging the important duties of his office with ability and fidelity, all commissions of justices of the peace shall become void, at the expiration of five years from their respective dates, and upon the expiration of any commission, the same may, if necessary, be renewed, or another person appointed, as shall most conduce to the well-being of the state.

The judges of probate of wills, and for granting letters of administration, shall hold their courts at such place or places, on such fixed days, as the convenience of the people may require. And the legislature shall from time to time, hereafter appoint such times and places, until which appointments, the said courts shall be holden at the times and places which the respective judges shall direct.

All causes of marriage, divorce and alimony, and all appeals from the respective judges of probate, shall be heard and tried by the superior court, until the legislature shall, by law make other provision.

CLERKS OF COURTS.

The clerks of the superior court of judicature, inferior courts of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, shall be appointed by the respective courts during pleasure. And to prevent any fraud or unfairness in the entries and records of said courts, no such clerk shall be of counsel in any

any court of which he is clerk, nor shall he fill any writ in any civil action whatsoever.

DELEGATES TO CONGRESS.

The delegates of this state to the Congress of the united states, shall some time between the first Wednesday of June, and the first Wednesday of September annually, be elected by the senate and house of representatives in their separate branches ; to serve in Congress for one year, to commence on the first Monday in November then next ensuing. They shall have commissions under the hand of the President, and the great seal of the state ; but may be recalled at any time within the year, and others chosen and commissioned in the same manner in their stead : And they shall have the same qualifications, in all respects, as by this constitution are required for the President.

No person shall be capable of being a delegate to Congress, for more than three years in any term of six years ; nor shall any person being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the united states, for which he, or any other for his benefit, receives any salary, or emolument of any kind.

ENCOURAGEMENT of LITERATURE, &c.

Knowledge and learning, generally diffused through a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government ; and spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through the various parts of the country, being highly conducive to promote this end ; it shall be the duty of the legislators and magistrates, in all future periods of this government, to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries and public schools, to encourage private and public institutions, rewards and immunities for the promotion of agriculture, arts, sciences, commerce, trades, manufactures and natural history of the country ; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and oeconomy, honesty and punctuality, sincerity, sobriety, and all social affections, and generous sentiments, among the people.

© *A T H* and subscriptions ; exclusion from offices ; commissions ; writs ; confirmations of laws ; habeas corpus ; the enacting stile ; continuance of officers ; provision for a future revision of the constitution,, &c:

Any person chosen President, counsellor, senator or representative, military or civil officer; (town officers excepted,) accepting the trust, shall before he proceeds to execute the duties of his office, make and subscribe the following declaration, viz.

I, A. B. do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare, that the state of New-Hampshire is, and of right ought to be, a free, sovereign and independent state ; and do swear that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the same, and that I will endeavour to defend it against all treacherous conspiracies and hostile attempts whatever : And I do further testify and declare, that no man or body of men hath or can have, a right to absolve me from the obligation of this oath declaration or affirmation ; and that I do make this acknowledgement, profession, testimony, and declaration, honestly and truly, according to the common acceptation of the foregoing words, without any equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation whatever.

So help me GOD.

I, A. B. do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm, that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution, and the laws of the state of New-Hampshire.

So help me GOD.

Provided always, When any person chosen or appointed as aforesaid, shall be of the denomination called Quakers, or shall be scrupulous of swearing, and shall decline taking the said oaths, such shall take and subscribe them, omitting the word "swear," and likewise the words "so help me God," subjoining instead thereof, This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury.

And the oaths or affirmations shall be taken and subscribed by the President before the senior senator present, in the presence of the two houses of assembly ; and by the senate and representatives first elected under this constitution, before the President and three of the council of the former constitution, and for ever afterwards, before the

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President and council for the time being ; and by the residue of the officers aforesaid, before such persons, and in such manner as from time to time shall be prescribed by the legislature.

All commissions shall be in the name of the state of New-Hampshire, signed by the President, and attested by the secretary, or his deputy, and shall have the great seal of the state affixed thereto.

All writs issuing out of the Clerk's office in any of the courts of law; shall be in the name of the state of New-Hampshire ; shall be under the seal of the court whence they issue, and bear test of the chief, first, or senior justice of the court ; but when such justice shall be interested, then the writ shall bear test of some other justice of the court, to which the same shall be returnable ; and be signed by the clerk of such court.

All indictments, presentments and informations, shall conclude *against the peace and dignity of the state*.

The estates of such persons as may destroy their own lives, shall not for that offence be forfeited, but descend or ascend in the same manner, as if such persons had died in a natural way. Nor shall any article, which shall accidentally occasion the death of any person, be henceforth deemed a deodand, or in any wise forfeited on account of such misfortune,

All the laws which have heretofore been adopted, used and approved, in the province, colony or state of New-Hampshire, and usually practised on in the courts of law, shall remain and be in full force, until altered and repealed by the legislature ; such parts thereof only excepted, as are repugnant to the rights and liberties contained in this constitution : Provided that nothing herein contained, when compared with the twenty third article in the bill of rights, shall be construed to affect the laws already made respecting the persons, or estates of absentees.

The privilege and benefit of the habeas-corpus, shall be enjoyed in this state, in the most free, easy, cheap, expeditious, and ample manner, & shall not be suspended by the legislature, except upon the most urgent and pressing occasions, and for a time not exceeding three months.

The enacting stile in making and passing acts, statutes, and laws

laws, shall be---*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives in general-court convened.*

No President or judge of the superior-court shall hold any office or place under the authority of this state, except such as by this constitution they are admitted to hold, saving that the judges of the said court may hold the offices of justice of the peace throughout the state; nor shall they hold any place or office, or receive any pension or salary, from any other state, government, or power whatever.

No person shall be capable of exercising at the same time, more than one of the following offices within this state, viz. judge of probate, sheriff, register of deeds; and never more than two offices of profit, which may be held by appointment of the President, or President and council, or senate and house of representatives, or superior or inferior courts; military offices, and offices of justices of the peace excepted.

No person holding the office of judge of the superior-court secretary, treasurer of the state, judge of probate, attorney-general, commissary-general, judge of the maritime-court, or judge of the court of admiralty, military officers receiving pay from the continent or this state, excepting officers of the militia occasionally called fourth on an emergency; judge of the inferior-court of common-pleas, register of deeds, President, professor or instructor of any college, sheriff, or officer of customs, including naval-officers, shall at the same time have a seat in the senate or house of representatives, or council; but their being chosen or appointed to, and accepting the same, shall operate as a resignation of their seat in the senate, or house of representatives, or council; and the place so vacated shall be filled up.

No person shall ever be admitted to hold a seat in the legislature, or any office of trust or importance under this government, who in the due course of law, has been convicted of bribery or corruption, in obtaining an election or appointment.

In all cases where sums of money are mentioned in this constitution, the value thereof shall be computed in silver at *six shillings and eight pence* per ounce.

To the end that there may be no failure of justice or danger arise to this state from a change of the form of government, all civil and military officers, holding commissions

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sions under the government and people of New-Hampshire, and other officers of the said government and people, at the time this constitution shall take effect, shall hold, exercise and enjoy all the powers and authorities to them granted and committed, until other persons shall be appointed in their stead. All courts of law in the business of their respective departments, and the executive, and legislative bodies and persons, shall continue in full force, enjoyment and exercise of all their trusts and employments, until the general-court, and the supreme and other executive officers under this constitution, are designated, and invested with their respective trusts, powers and authority.

This form of government shall be enrolled on parchment, and deposited in the secretary's office, and be a part of the laws of the land, and printed copies thereof shall be prefixed to the books containing the laws of this state, in all future editions thereof.

To preserve an effectual adherence to the principles of the constitution, and to correct any violations thereof, as well as to make such alterations therein, as from experience may be found necessary, the general-court shall at the expiration of seven years from the time this constitution shall take effect, issue precepts or direct them to be issued from the secretary's office, to the several towns and incorporated places, to elect delegates to meet in convention for the purposes aforesaid; The said delegates to be chosen in the same manner, and proportioned as the representatives to the general-assembly; provided that no alteration shall be made in this constitution before the same shall be laid before the towns and unincorporated places, and approved by two thirds of the qualified voters present, and voting upon the question.

I N C O N V E N T I O N,

Held at C O N C O R D, the 31st. day of October, 1783.

TH E returns from the several towns being examined, and it appearing that the foregoing Bill of Rights and form of government were approved of by the people; the same

are hereby agreed on and established by the delegates of the people, and declared to be the civil constitution for the state of New-Hampshire, to take place on the first Wednesday of June, 1784; and that in the mean time the general-court under the present government, make all the necessary arrangements for introducing this constitution, at that time, and in the manner therein described.

NATH. FOLSOM, PRESIDENT; P. T.

Attest.

J. M. SEWALL, SECRETARY.

AGREED upon by the Delegates of the people of the state of New-Hampshire, in Convention, Held at Concord, on the first Tuesday of June 1783; submitted to, and approved of by the people of said state; and established by their Delegates in Convention, October 31, 1783.

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M A S S A C H U S E T T S.

CONSTITUTION, or **FRAME of GOVERNMENT**, *agreed upon by the Delegates of the People of the State of Massachusetts-Bay, in CONVENTION, begun and held at Cambridge, on the first of September, 1779, and continued by Adjournments, to the Second of March, 1780.*

P R E A M B L E.

THE end of the institution, maintenance and administration of government, is to secure the existence of the body-politic, to protect it, and to furnish the individuals who compose it, with the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquillity, their natural right, and the blessings of life : And whenever these great objects are not obtained, the people have a right to alter the government, and to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity and happiness.

The body-politic is formed by a voluntary association of individuals : It is a social compact, by which the whole people covenants with each citizen, and each citizen with the whole people, that all shall be governed by certain laws for the common good. It is the duty of the people, therefore, in framing a constitution of government, to provide for an equitable mode of making laws, as well as for an impartial interpretation, and a faithful execution of them ; that every man may, at all times, find his security in them.

We, therefore, the people of Massachusetts, acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the goodness of the Great Legislature of the Universe, in affording us, in the course of his providence, an opportunity, deliberately, and peaceably, without fraud, violence, or surprize, of entering into an original, explicit, and solemn compact with each other ; and of forming a new constitution of civil government, for ourselves and posterity ; and devoutly imploring his direction in so interesting a design, DO agree upon, ordain, and establish, the following *Declaration of Rights and Frame of Government*, as the *Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*.

P A R T I.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS,
of the Inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Art. I. **A**LL men are born free and equal, and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.

II. It is the right as well as the duty of all men in society, publicly, and at stated seasons, to worship the Supreme Being, the great Creator and Preserver of the Universe. And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained in his person, liberty, or estate, for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience, or for his religious profession or sentiments; provided he doth not disturb the public peace, or obstruct others in their religious worship.

III. As the happiness of a people, and the good order and preservation of civil government, essentially depend upon piety, religion, and morality; and as these cannot be generally diffused through a community, but by the institution of the public worship of God, and of public instructions in piety, religion and morality: Therefore, to promote their happiness, and to secure the good order and preservation of their government, the people of this commonwealth have a right to invest their legislature with power to authorise and require, and the legislature shall, from time to time, authorise and require the several towns, parishes, precincts, and other bodies-politic, or religious societies, to make suitable provision, at their own expence, for the institution of the public worship of God, and for the support and maintenance of public protestant teachers of piety, religion, and morality, in all cases where such provision shall not be made voluntarily.

And the people of this commonwealth, have also a right to, and do, invest their legislature with authority to enjoin, upon all the subjects, an attendance upon the instructions of the public teachers as aforesaid, at stated times and seasons, if there be any on whose instructions they can conscientiously and conveniently attend.

Provided,

Provided, notwithstanding, that the several towns, parishes, precincts, and other bodies-politic, or religious societies, shall, at all times, have the exclusive right of electing their public teachers, and of contracting with them for their support and maintenance.

And all monies paid by the subject to the support of public worship, and of the public teachers aforesaid, shall, if he require it, be uniformly applied to the support of the public teacher or teachers of his own religious sect or denomination, provided there be any on whose instructions he attends; otherwise it may be paid towards the support of the teacher or teachers of the parish or precinct in which the said monies are raised.

And every denomination of Christians demeaning themselves peaceably, and as good subjects of the commonwealth, shall be equally under the protection of the law: And no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another, shall ever be established by law

IV. The people of this commonwealth have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state; and do, and forever hereafter shall, exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not, or may not hereafter, be by them expressly delegated to the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

V. All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive, or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them.

VI. No man, or corporation, or association of men, have any other title to obtain advantages, or particular and exclusive privileges, distinct from those of the community, than what arises from the consideration of services rendered to the public; and this title being in nature neither hereditary nor transmissible to children, or descendants or relations by blood, the idea of a man born a magistrate, lawgiver, or judge, is absurd and unnatural.

VII. Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for the profit, honour, and private interest of any one man, family, or class of men: Therefore, the people

people alone have an incontestible, unalienable, and indefeasible right, to institute government ; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it.

VIII. In order to prevent those, who are vested with authority from becoming oppressors, the people have a right at such periods, and in such manner as they shall establish by their frame of government, to cause their public officers to return to private life ; and to fill up vacant places, by certain and regular elections and appointments.

IX. All elections ought to be free, and all the inhabitants of this commonwealth, having such qualifications as they shall establish by their frame of government, have an equal right to elect officers, and to be elected for public employments.

X. Each individual of the society has a right to be protected by it, in the enjoyment of his life, liberty, and property, according to standing laws. He is obliged, consequently, to contribute his share to the expence of this protection ; to give his personal service, or an equivalent, when necessary : But no part of the property of any individual, can, with justice, be taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of the representative body of the people : In fine, the people of this Commonwealth are not controulable by any other laws, than those to which their constitutional representative body have given their consent. and whenever the public exigencies require, that the property of any individual should be appropriated to public uses, he shall receive a reasonable compensation therefor.

XI. Every subject of the commonwealth ought to find a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws for all injuries or wrongs which he may receive in his person, property, or character. He ought to obtain right and justice freely, and without being obliged to purchase it ; compleatly, and without any denial ; promptly, and without delay ; conformable to the laws.

XII. No subject shall be held to answer for any crime or offence, until the same is fully and plainly, substantially and formally, described to him ; or be compelled to accuse, or furnish evidence against himself. And every subject shall have a right to produce all proofs that may be favourable to

him

him ; to meet the witnesses against him face to face, and to be fully heard in his defence by himself, or his council, at his election. And no subject shall be arrested, imprisoned, despoiled, or deprived of his property, immunities, or privileges, put out of the protection of the law, exiled, or deprived of his life, liberty, or estate, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

And the legislature shall not make any law, that shall subject any person to a capital or infamous punishment, excepting for the government of the army and navy, without trial by jury.

XIII. In criminal prosecutions, the verification of facts in the vicinity where they happen, is one of the greatest securities of the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

XIV. every subject has a right to be secure from all unreasonable searches, and seizures, of his person, his houses, his papers, and all his possessions. All warrants, therefore, are contrary to his right, if the cause or foundation of them be not previously supported by oath or affirmation ; and if the order in a warrant to a civil officer, to make search in all suspected places, or to arrest one or more of the suspected persons or to seize their property, be not accompanied with a special designation of the persons or objects of search, arrest, or seizure ; and no warrant ought to be issued, but in cases and with the formalities prescribed by the laws.

XV. In all controversies concerning property, and in all suits between two or more persons, except in cases in which it has heretofore been otherways used and practised, the parties have a right to a trial by a jury ; and this method of procedure shall be held sacred, unless, in causes arising on the high seas, and such as relate to mariners wages, the legislature shall hereafter find it necessary to alter it,

XVI. The liberty of the press is essential to the security of freedom in a state ; it ought not, therefore, to be restrained in this Commonwealth.

XVII. The people have a right to keep and to bear arms for the common defence. And as in time of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained without the consent of the legislature, and the military power shall always be held in exact subordination to the civil authority, and be governed by it,

XVIII. A frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of the constitution, and a constant adherence to those of

piety, justice, moderation, temperance, industry, and frugality, are absolutely necessary, to preserve the advantages of liberty, and to maintain a free government. The people ought, consequently, to have a particular attention to all those principles, in the choice of their officers and representatives: And they have a right to require of their lawgivers and magistrates, an exact and constant observance of them, in the formation and execution of all laws necessary for the good administration of the commonwealth.

XIX. The people have a right, in any orderly & peaceable manner, to assemble to consult upon the common good; give instructions to their representatives; and to request of the legislative body, by the way of addresses, petitions, or remonstrances, redress of the wrongs done them, and of the grievances they suffer,

XX. The power of suspending the laws, or the execution of the laws, ought never to be exercised but by the legislature, or by authority derived from it, to be exercised in such particular cases only as the legislature shall expressly provide for.

XXI. The freedom of deliberation, speech, and debate, in either house of the legislature, is so essential to the rights of the people, that it cannot be the foundation of any accusation to prosecution, action, or complaint, in any other court or place whatsoever.

XXII. The legislature ought frequently to assemble for the redress of grievances, correcting, strengthening; and confirming the laws, and for making new laws, as the common good may require.

XXIII. No subsidy, charge, tax, impost, or duties, ought to be established, fixed, laid, or levied, under any pretext whatsoever, without the consent of the people, or their representatives in the legislature.

XXIV. Laws made to punish for actions done before the existence of such laws, and which have not been declared crimes by preceding laws, are unjust, oppressive, and inconsistent with the fundamental principles of a free government.

XXV. No subject ought, in any case, or in any time, to be declared guilty of treason or felony by the legislature.

XXVI. No magistrate or court of law shall demand excessive bail or sureties, impose excessive fines, or inflict cruel or unusual punishments.

XXVII. In time of peace, no soldier ought to be quartered

red in any house without the consent of the owner ; and in time of war, such quarters ought not to be made, but by the civil magistrate, in a manner ordained by the legislature.

XXVIII. No person can in any case be subjected to law-martial, or to any penalties or pains, by virtue of that law, except those employed in the army or navy, and except the militia in actual service, but by the authority of the legislature.

XXIX. It is essential to the preservation of the rights of every individual, his life, liberty, property, and character, that there be an impartial interpretation of the laws, and administration of justice. It is the right of every citizen to be tried by judges as free, impartial, and independent, as the lot of humanity will admit. It is, therefore, not only the best policy, but for the security of the rights of the people, and every citizen, that the judges of the supreme judicial court should hold their offices as long as they behave themselves well ; and that they should have honourable salaries, ascertained and established by standing laws.

XXX. In the government of this commonwealth, the legislative department shall never exercise the executive and judicial powers, or either of them : The executive shall never exercise the legislative and judicial powers, or either of them : The judicial shall never exercise the legislative and executive powers, or either of them : to the end, it may be a government of laws, and not of men.

P A R T II.

The F R A M E of G O V E R N M E N T.

THE People inhabiting the territory formerly called the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, do hereby solemnly and mutually agree with each other, to form themselves into a free, sovereign, and independant body-politic or state, by the name of, *The COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.*

C H A P T E R

CHAPTER I,

The LEGISLATIVE POWER.

SECTION I.

The GENERAL COURT.

Art. I. THE department of legislation shall be formed by two branches, a *Senate*, and *House of Representatives*: each of which shall have a negative on the other.

The legislative body shall assemble every year, on the last Wednesday in May, and at such other times as they shall judge necessary; and shall dissolve and be dissolved on the day next preceding the said last Wednesday in May; and shall be styled, *The General Court of Massachusetts*.

II. No bill or resolve of the senate or house of representatives shall become a law, and have force as such, until it shall have been laid before the Governor for his revial: And if he, upon such revision, approve thereof, he shall signify his approbation by signing the same. But if he have any objection to the passing of such bill or resolve, he shall return the same, together with his objections thereto, in writing, to the senate or house of representatives, in which soever the same shall have originated; who shall enter the objections sent down by the Governor, at large on their records, and proceed to reconsider the said bill or resolve: but if after such reconsideration, two thirds of the said senate, or house of representatives, shall, notwithstanding the said objections, agree to pass the same, it shall, together with the objections, be sent to the other branch of the legislature, where it shall also be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of the members present it shall have the force of a law: But in all such cases, the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays; and the names of the persons voting for, or against, the said bill or resolve, shall be entered upon the public records of the commonwealth.

And in order to prevent unnecessary delays, if any bill or resolve shall not be returned by the Governor within five days after it shall have been presented, the same shall have the force of a law.

III. The general court shall forever have full power and authority

authority to erect and constitute judicatories and courts of record, or other courts, to be held in the name of the Commonwealth, for the hearing, trying, and determining of all manner of crimes, offences, pleas, proceffes, complaints, actions, matters, causes and things, whatsoever, arising or happening within the commonwealth, or between or concerning persons inhabiting, or residing, or brought within the same; whether the same be criminal or civil, or whether the said crimes be capital or not capital, and whether the said pleas be real, personal, or mixt; and for the awarding and making out of execution thereupon: To which courts and judicatories are hereby given and granted full power and authority, from time to time, to administer oaths or affirmations, for the better discovery of the truth in any matter in controversy or depending before them.

IV. And further, full power and authority is hereby given and granted to the said general court, from time to time, to make, ordain, and establish, all manner of wholesome and reasonable orders, laws, statutes, and ordinances, directions and instructions, either with penalties or without; so as the same be not repugnant or contrary to this constitution, as they shall judge to be for the good and welfare of this commonwealth, and for the government and ordering thereof and of the subjects of the same. and for the necessary support and defence of the government thereof; and to name and settle annually, or provide by fixed laws, for the naming and settling all civil officers within the said commonwealth; the election and constitution of whom are not hereafter in this form of government otherwise provided for; and to set forth the several duties, powers and limits, of the several civil and military officers of this commonwealth and the forms of such oaths or affirmations as shall be respectively administered unto them for the execution of their several offices and places, so as the same be not repugnant and contrary to this constitution; and to impose and levy proportionable and reasonable assessments, rates and taxes, upon all the inhabitants of, and persons resident, and estates lying, within the said commonwealth; and also to impose and levy, reasonable duties and excises, upon any produce, goods, wares, merchandises, and commodities whatsoever, brought into, produced, manufactured, or being within the same; to be issued and disposed of by war-

rant, under the hand of the Governor of this commonwealth for the time being, with the advice and consent of the council, for the public service, in the necessary defence and support of the government of the said commonwealth, and the protection and preservation of the subjects thereof, according to such acts as are or shall be in force within the same.

And while the public charges of government, or any part thereof, shall be assessed on polls and estates, in the manner that has hitherto been practised; and in order that such assessments may be made with equality, there shall be a valuation of estates within the commonwealth taken anew once in every ten years at the least, and as much oftener as the general court shall order.

C H A P. I. S E C T. II.

S E N A T E.

Art. I. THERE shall be annually elected by the freeholders and other inhabitants of this commonwealth, qualified as in this constitution is provided, forty persons to be counsellors and senators for the year ensuing their election; to be chosen by the inhabitants of the districts, into which the commonwealth may from time to time be divided by the general court for that purpose. And the general court, in assigning the numbers to be elected by the respective districts, shall govern themselves by the proportion of the public taxes paid by the said districts; and timely make known to the inhabitants of the commonwealth, the limits of each district, and the number of counsellors and senators to be chosen therein; provided that the number of such districts shall be never less than thirteen; and that no district be so large as to intitle the same to choose more than six senators,

And the several counties in this commonwealth shall, until the general court shall determine it necessary to alter the said districts, be districts for choice of counsellors and senators (except that the counties of Dukes-county and Nantucket shall form one district for that purpose) and shall elect the following number for counsellors and senators, viz.

Suffolk

Six

York

Two

Essex

Essex	Six	Dukes-county	} One
Middlesex	Five	and Nantucket	
Hampshire	Four	Worcester	Five
Plymouth	Three	Cumberland	One
Barnstable	One	Lincoln	One
Bristol	Three	Worcestershire	Two

II. The senate shall be the first branch of the legislature ; and the senators shall be chosen in the following manner, viz. There shall be a meeting on the first Monday in April annually, forever, of the inhabitants of each town in the several counties of this commonwealth ; to be called by the selectmen, and warned in due course of law, at least seven days before the first Monday in April, for the purpose of electing persons to be senators and counsellors : And at such meetings every male inhabitant of twenty-one years of age and upwards, having a freehold estate within the commonwealth, of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate of the value of sixty pounds, shall have a right to give in his vote for the senators for the district of which he is an inhabitant. And to remove all doubts concerning the meaning of the word "inhabitant," in this constitution, every person shall be considered as an inhabitant, for the purpose of electing and being elected into any office or place within this state, in that town, district or plantation, where he dwelleth, or hath his home.

The selectmen of the several towns shall preside at such meetings impartially ; and shall receive the votes of all the inhabitants of such towns present and qualified to vote for senators, and shall sort and count them in open town meeting and in presence of the town clerk, who shall make a fair record, in presence of the selectmen, and in open town meeting, of the name of every person voted for, and of the number of votes against his name ; and a fair copy of this record shall be attested by the selectmen and the town-clerk, and shall be sealed up, directed to the secretary of the commonwealth for the time being, with superscription, expressing the purports of the contents thereof, and delivered by the town-clerk of such towns, to the sheriff of the county in which such town lies, thirty days at least before the last Wednesday in May annually ; or it shall be delivered into the secretary's office seventeen days at least before the said last Wednesday in May ; and the sheriff of each county shall deliver

deliver all such certificates by him received into the Secretary's office seventeen days before the said last Wednesday in May.

And the inhabitants of plantations unincorporated, qualified as this constitution provides, who are or shall be empowered to assess taxes upon themselves toward the support of government, shall have the same privilege of voting for counsellors and senators in the plantations where they reside, as town inhabitants have in their respective towns; and the plantation meetings for that purpose shall be held annually on the same first Monday in April, at such place in the plantations respectively, as the assessors thereof shall direct; which assessors shall have like authority for notifying the electors, collecting and returning the votes, as the selectmen and town-clerks have in their several towns, by this constitution. And all other persons living in places unincorporated (qualified as aforesaid) who shall be assessed to the support of the government by the assessors of an adjacent town shall have the privilege of giving in their votes for counsellors and senators, in the town where they shall be assessed, and be notified of the place of meeting by the selectmen of the town where they shall be assessed, for that purpose accordingly.

III. And that there may be a due convention of senators on the last Wednesday in May annually, the Governor, and five of the council, for the time being, shall, as soon as may be, examine the returned copies of such records; and fourteen days before the said day he shall issue his summons to such persons as shall appear to be chosen by the majority of voters, to attend on that day, & take their seats accordingly; provided nevertheless, that for the first year the said returned copies shall be examined by the president and five of the council of the former constitution of government; and the said president shall in like manner, issue his summons to the persons so elected, that they may take their seats as aforesaid.

IV. The senate shall be the final judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of their own members, as pointed out in the constitution; and shall, on the said last Wednesday in May annually, determine and declare who are elected by each district, to be senators by a majority of votes; And in case there shall not appear to be the full number of

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senators returned, elected by a majority of votes for any district, the deficiency shall be supplied in the following manner, viz. The members of the house of representatives, and such senators as shall be declared elected, shall take the names of such persons as shall be found to have the highest number of votes in such district, and not elected, amounting to twice the number of senators wanting, if there be so many voted for; and out of these, shall elect by ballot a number of senators sufficient to fill up the vacancies in such district; and in this manner all such vacancies shall be filled in every district of the commonwealth; and in like manner all vacancies in the senate arising by death, removal out of the state, or otherwise, shall be supplied as soon as may be, after such vacancies shall happen.

V. Provided nevertheless, that no person shall be capable of being elected as a senator, who is not seized in his own right of a freehold within this commonwealth, of the value of three hundred pounds at least, or possessed of personal estate to the value of six hundred pounds at least, or of both to the amount of the same sum, and who has not been an inhabitant of this commonwealth for the space of five years preceding his election, and at the time of his election, he shall be an inhabitant in the district for which he shall be chosen.

VI. The senate shall have power to adjourn themselves, provided such adjournments do not exceed two days at a time.

VIII. The senate shall choose its own president, appoint its own officers, and determine its own rules of proceedings.

VII. The senate shall be a court with full authority to hear and determine all impeachments made by the house of representatives, against any officer or officers of the commonwealth, for misconduct and mal-administration in their offices. but previous to the trial of every impeachment, the members of the senate shall respectively be sworn, truly and impartially to try and determine the charge in question, according to evidence. Their judgment, however, shall not extend farther than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold or enjoy any place of honour, trust or profit, under this commonwealth: But the party so convicted, shall be, nevertheless, liable to indictment, trial, judgment

judgment and punishment, according to the laws of the land.

IX. Not less than sixteen members of the senate, shall constitute a quorum for doing business.

C H A P. I. S E C T III.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Art. I. THERE shall be in the legislature of this commonwealth, a representation of the people, annually elected, and founded upon the principle of equality.

II. And in order to provide for a representation of the citizens of this commonwealth, founded on the principle of equality, every corporate town, containing one hundred and fifty rateable polls, may elect one representative: Every corporate town, containing three hundred and seventy-five rateable polls, may elect two representatives: Every corporate town, containing six hundred rateable polls, may elect three representatives; and proceeding in that manner, making two hundred and twenty-five rateable polls the mean increasing number of every additional representative.

Provided nevertheless, that each town now incorporated, not having one hundred and fifty rateable polls, may elect one representative: But no place shall hereafter be incorporated with the privilege of electing a representative, unless there are within the same, one hundred and fifty rateable polls.

And the house of representatives shall have power from time to time, to impose fines upon such towns as shall neglect to choose and return members to the same, agreeably to this constitution.

The expences of travelling to the general assembly, and returning home, once in every session and no more, shall be paid by the government out of the public treasury, to every member who shall attend as seasonably as he can, in the judgment of the house, and does not depart without leave.

III. Every member of the house of representatives shall be chosen by written votes; and for one year at least next preceding his election, shall have been an inhabitant of, and been seized in his own right of a freehold of the value

of

of one hundred pounds within the town he shall be chosen to represent, or any rateable estate to the value of two hundred pounds; and he shall cease to represent the said town, immediately on his ceasing to be qualified as aforesaid.

IV. Every male person, being twenty-one years of age, and resident in any particular town in this commonwealth, for the space of one year next preceding, having a freehold estate within the same town, of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate of the value of sixty pounds, shall have a right to vote in the choice of a representative, or representatives for the said town.

V. The members of the house of representatives shall be chosen annually in the month of May, ten days at least before the last Wednesday of that month.

VI. The house of representatives shall be the grand inquest of this commonwealth; and all impeachments made by them, shall be heard and tried by the senate.

VII. All money-bills shall originate in the house of representatives; but the senate may propose or concur with amendments, as on other bills.

VIII. The house of representatives shall have power to adjourn themselves; provided such adjournment shall not exceed two days at a time.

IX. Not less than sixty members of the house of representatives, shall constitute a quorum for doing business.

X. The house of representatives shall be the judge of the returns, elections, and qualifications of its own members, as pointed out in the constitution; shall chuse their own speaker; appoint their own officers, and settle the rules and orders of proceeding in their own house: They shall have authority to punish by imprisonment, every person, not a member, who shall be guilty of disrespect to the house, by any disorderly or contemptuous behaviour in its presence; or who, in the town where the general court is sitting, and during the time of its sitting, shall threaten harm to the body or estate of any of its members, for any thing said or done in the house; or who shall assault any of them therefor; or who shall assault, or arrest any witness, or other person, ordered to attend the house, in his way in going, or returning; or who shall rescue any person arrested by the order of the house.

And

And no member of the house of representatives shall be arrested, or held to bail on mean process, during his going unto, returning from, or his attending the general assembly.

XI. The senate shall have the same powers in the like cases; and the governor and council shall have the same authority to punish in like cases. Provided, that no imprisonment on the warrant or order of the Governor, council, senate, or house of representatives, for either of the above described offences, be for a term exceeding thirty days.

And the senate and house of representatives may try, and determine, all cases where their rights and privileges are concerned, and which, by the constitution, they have authority to try and determine, by committees of their own members, or in such other way as they may respectively think best.

C H A P T E R II.

E X E C U T I V E P O W E R.

S E C T I O N I.

G O V E R N O R.

Art. I. THERE shall be a supreme executive magistrate, who shall be styled, *The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*; and whose title shall be, *His Excellency*.

II. The Governor shall be chosen annually: And no person shall be eligible to this office, unless at the time of his election, he shall have been an inhabitant of this commonwealth, for seven years next preceding; and unless he shall, at the same time, be seized in his own right, of a freehold within the commonwealth, of the value of one thousand pounds; and unless he shall declare himself to be of the Christian religion.

III. Those persons who shall be qualified to vote for senators and representatives within the several towns of this commonwealth, shall, at a meeting to be called for that purpose, on the first Monday of April annually, give in their votes for a Governor, to the selectmen, who shall preside at such meetings; and the town-clerk, in the presence and with the assistance of the selectmen, shall, in open town-meeting, sort and count the votes, and form a list of the persons voted for, with the number of votes for each person against his name; and shall make a fair record of the same

in the town books, and a public declaration thereof in said meeting; and shall, in the presence of the inhabitants, seal up copies of the said list, attested by him and the selectmen, and transmit the same to the sheriff of the county, thirty days at least before the last Wednesday in May; and the sheriff shall transmit the same to the secretary's office, seventeen days at least before the said last Wednesday in May; or the selectmen may cause returns of the same to be made to the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, seventeen days at least before the said day; and the secretary shall lay the same before the senate, and the house of representatives, on the last Wednesday in May, to be by them examined: And in case of an election by a majority of all the votes returned, the choice shall be by them declared and published: But if no person shall have a majority of votes, the house of representatives shall, by ballot, elect two out of four persons, who had the highest number of votes, if so many shall have been voted for; and make return to the senate of the two persons so elected; on which the senate shall proceed, by ballot to elect one, who shall be declared Governor.

IV. The Governor shall have authority, from time to time, at his discretion, to assemble and call together the counsellors of the commonwealth for the time being; and the Governor, with the said counsellors, or five of them at least, shall, and may, from time to time, hold and keep a council, for the ordering and directing the affairs of the commonwealth, agreeably to the constitution, and the laws of the land.

V. The Governor, with the advice of council, shall have full power and authority, during the session of the general court, to adjourn or prorogue the same, to any time the two houses shall desire; and to dissolve the same, on the day next preceding the last Wednesday in May; and in the recess of the said court, to prorogue the same, from time to time, not exceeding ninety days in any one recess; and to call it together sooner than the time to which it may be adjourned or prorogued, if the welfare of the commonwealth shall require the same: And in case of any infectious distemper prevailing in the place where the said court is next at any time to convene, or any other cause happening, where by danger may arise to the health or lives of the members

from their attendance, he may direct the session to be held at some other the most convenient place within the state.

And the Governor shall dissolve the said general court on the day next preceding the last Wednesday in May.

VI. In cases of disagreement, between the two houses, with regard to the necessity, expediency, or time of adjournment, or prorogation, the Governor, with advice of the council, shall have a right to adjourn or prorogue the general court, not exceeding ninety days, as he shall determine the public good shall require.

VII. The Governor of this commonwealth, for the time being, shall be the commander in chief of the army and navy, and of all the military forces of the state, by sea and land; and shall have full power by himself, or by any commander, or other officer or officers, from time to time, to train, instruct, exercise and govern the militia and navy, and for the special defence and safety of the commonwealth, to assemble in martial array, and put in warlike posture, the inhabitants thereof, and to lead and conduct them, and with them to encounter, repel, resist, expel, and pursue, by force of arms, as well by sea as by land, within or without the limits of this commonwealth, and also to kill, slay, and destroy if necessary, and conquer, by all fitting ways, enterprizes, and means whatsoever, all and every such person and persons, as shall, at any time hereafter, in a hostile manner, attempt or enterprize the destruction, invasion, detriment, or annoyance of this commonwealth; and to use and exercise over the army and navy, and over the militia in actual service, the law-martial, in time of war or invasion, and also in time of rebellion, declared by the legislature to exist, as occasion shall necessarily require; and to take and surprize by all ways and means whatsoever, all and every such person or persons, with their ships, arms, ammunition, and other goods, as shall, in a hostile manner, invade, or attempt the invading, conquering, or annoying this commonwealth; and that the Governor be entrusted with all these and other powers, incident to the offices of Captain-general and Commander in Chief, and Admiral, to be exercised agreeably to the rules and regulations of the constitution, and the laws of the land, and not otherwise.

Provided, that the said Governor shall not, at any time hereafter,

hereafter, by virtue of any power by this constitution granted, or hereafter to be granted to him by the legislature, transport any of the inhabitants of this commonwealth, or oblige them to march out of the limits of the same, without their free and voluntary consent, or the consent of the general court; except so far as may be necessary to march or transport them by land or water for the defence of such part of the state, to which they cannot otherwise conveniently have access.

VIII. The power of pardoning offences, except such as persons may be convicted of before the senate by an impeachment of the house, shall be in the Governor, by and with the advice of council: But no charter of pardon, granted by the Governor, with advice of the council, before conviction, shall avail the party pleading the same, notwithstanding any general or particular expressions contained therein, descriptive of the offence or offences intended to be pardoned.

IX. All judicial officers, the attorney-general, the solicitor-general, all sheriffs, coronors, and registers of probate, shall be nominated and appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the council; and every such nomination shall be made by the Governor, and made at least seven days prior to such appointment.

X. The captains and subalterns of the militia, shall be elected by the written votes of the train band and alarm list of their respective companies, of twenty-one years of age and upwards: The field officers of regiments shall be elected by the written votes of the captains and subalterns of their respective regiments: The brigadiers shall be elected in like manner, by the field officers of their respective brigades: And such officers, so elected, shall be commissioned by the Governor, who shall determine their rank.

The legislature shall, by standing laws, direct the time and manner of convening the electors, and of collecting votes, and of certifying to the Governor the officers elected.

The major-generals shall be appointed by the senate and house of representatives, each having a negative upon the other; and be commissioned by the Governor.

And if the electors of brigadiers, field officers, captains or subalterns, shall neglect or refuse to make such elections, after being duly notified, according to the laws for the time being,

being, then the Governor, with advice of council, shall appoint suitable persons to fill such offices.

And no officer, duly commissioned to command in the militia, shall be removed from his office, but by the address of both houses to the Governor, or by fair trial in court-martial, pursuant to the laws of the commonwealth for the time being.

The commanding officers of regiments shall appoint their adjutants and quartermasters; the brigadiers their brigade majors; and the major-generals their aids; and the Governor shall appoint the adjutant-general.

The Governor, with advice of council, shall appoint all officers of the continental army, whom by the confederation of the United States it is provided that this commonwealth shall appoint, as also all officers of forts and garrisons.

The divisions of the militia into brigades, regiments and companies, made in pursuance of the militia laws now in force, shall be considered as the proper divisions of the militia of this commonwealth, until the same shall be altered in pursuance of some future law.

XI. No monies shall be issued out of the treasury of this commonwealth, and disposed of (except such sums as may be appropriated for the redemption of bills of credit or treasurers notes, or for the payment of interests arising thereon) but by warrant under the hand of the Governor for the time being, with the advice and consent of the council, for the necessary defence and support of the commonwealth; and for the protection and preservation of the inhabitants thereof, agreeably to the acts and resolves of the general court.

XII. All public boards, the commissary-general, all superintending officers of public magazines and stores, belonging to this commonwealth, and all commanding officers of forts and garrisons within the same, shall once in every three months, officially, and without requisition, and at other times, when required by the Governor, deliver to him an account of all goods, stores, provisions, ammunition, cannon with their appendages, and small arms with their accoutrements, and of all other public property whatever under their care respectively; distinguishing the quantity, number, quality and kind of each, as particularly as may be; together with the condition of such forts and garrisons: And the said commanding officer shall exhibit to the Governor,

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nor, when required by him, a true and exact plan of such forts, and of the land and sea, or harbour or harbours adjacent.

And the said boards, and all public officers, shall communicate to the Governor, as soon as may be after receiving the same, all letters, dispatches, and intelligence of a public nature, which shall be directed to them respectively.

XIII. As the public good requires that the Governor should not be under the undue influence of any of the members of the general court, by a dependance on them for his support—that he should in all cases, act with freedom for the benefit of the public—that he should not have his attention necessarily diverted from that object to his private concerns—and that he should maintain the dignity of the commonwealth in the character of its chief magistrate—it is necessary that he should have an honourable stated salary, and of a fixed and permanent value, amply sufficient for those purposes, and established by standing laws: And it shall be among the first acts of the general court, after the commencement of this constitution, to establish such salary by law accordingly.

Permanent and honourable salaries shall also be established by law for the justices of the supreme judicial court.

And if it shall be found that any of the salaries aforesaid, so established, are insufficient, they shall, from time to time, be enlarged as the general court shall judge proper.

C H A P. II. S E C T. II.

L I E U T E N A N T - G O V E R N O R.

Art. I. THERE shall be annually elected a Lieutenant-Governor of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, whose title shall be, *His Honour*; and who shall be qualified, in point of religion, property, and residence in the commonwealth, in the same manner with the Governor. And the day and manner of his election, and the qualifications of the electors shall be the same as are required in the election of a Governor. The return of the votes for this officer, and the declaration of his election, shall be in the same manner: And if no one person shall be found to have a majority of all the votes returned, the vacancy shall be filled by the
senate

senate and house of representatives, in the same manner as the Governor is to be elected, in case no person shall have a majority of the votes of the people to be Governor.

II. The Governor, and in his absence the Lieutenant-governor, shall be president of the council, but shall have no vote in council: And the Lieutenant-governor shall always be a member of the council, except when the chair of the Governor shall be vacant.

III. Whenever the chair of the Governor shall be vacant, by reason of his death, or absence from the commonwealth, or otherwise; the Lieutenant-governor for the time being, shall, during such vacancy, perform all the duties incumbent upon the Governor, and shall have and exercise all the powers and authorities which by this constitution the Governor is vested with when personally present.

C H A P. II. S E C T. III.

C O U N C I L, and the Manner of settling Elections by the Legislature.

Art. I. There shall be a council for advising the Governor in the executive part of government, to consist of nine persons, besides the Lieutenant-governor, whom the Governor for the time being, shall have full power and authority, from time to time, at his discretion, to assemble and call together. And the Governor, with the said counsellors, or five of them at least, shall and may from time to time, hold and keep a council, for the ordering and directing the affairs of the commonwealth, according to the laws of the land.

II. Nine counsellors shall be annually chosen from among the persons returned for counsellors and senators, on the last Wednesday in May, by the joint ballot of the senators and representatives assembled in one room: And in case there shall not be found upon the first choice, the whole number of nine persons who will accept a seat in the council, the deficiency shall be made up by the electors aforesaid from among the people at large; and the number of senators left shall constitute the senate for the year. The seats of the persons thus elected from the senate, and accepting trust, shall be vacated in the senate.

III. The counsellors, in the civil arrangements of the commonwealth, shall have rank next after the Lieutenant-Governor.

IV. Not more than two counsellors shall be chosen out of any one district of this commonwealth.

V. The resolutions and advice of the council shall be recorded in a register, and signed by the members present; and this record may be called for at any time by either house of the legislature; and any member of the council may insert his opinion, contrary to the resolution of the majority.

VI. Whenever the office of the Governor and Lieutenant-governor shall be vacant, by reason of death, absence, or otherwise, then the council, or the major part of them, shall, during such vacancy, have full power and authority, to do, and execute, all and every such acts, matters and things, as the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor might or could, by virtue of this constitution, do or execute, if they or either of them, were personally present.

VII. And whereas the elections appointed to be made by this constitution, on the last Wednesday in May annually, by the two houses of the legislature, may not be compleated on that day, the said election may be adjourned from day to day untill the same shall be compleated. And the order of elections shall be as follows: the vacancies in the senate, if any, shall first be filled up: the Governor, Lieutenant-governor shall then be elected, provided there should be no choice of them by the people: And afterwards the two Houses shall proceed to the election of the council.

C H A P. II. S E C T. IV.

Secretary, Treasurer, Commissary, &c.

Art. I. THE secretary, treasurer and receiver general, and the commissary general, notaries-public, and naval officers, shall be chosen annually, by joint ballot of the senators and representatives in one room. And that the citizens of this commonwealth may be assured, from time to time, that the monies remaining in the public treasury, upon the settlement and liquidation of the public accounts, are their property no man shall be eligible as treasurer and receiver-general more than five years successively.

II. The records of the commonwealth shall be kept in the office of the secretary, who may appoint his deputies, for whose conduct he shall be accountable, and he shall attend the Governor and council, the senate and house of representatives, in person or by his deputies, as they shall respectively require.

CHAPTER III.

J U D I C I A R Y P O W E R.

Art. I. THE tenure, that all commission officers shall by law have in their offices shall be expressed in their respective commissions, all judicial officers, duly appointed, commissioned and sworn, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, excepting such concerning whom there is different provision made in this constitution: Provided nevertheless, the Governor, with consent of the council, may remove them upon the address of both houses of the legislature.

II. Each branch of the legislature, as well as the Governor and council shall have authority to require the opinions of the justices of the supreme judicial court, upon important questions of law, and upon solemn occasions.

III. In order that the people may not suffer from the long continuance in place of any justice of the peace, who shall fail of discharging the important duties of his office with ability and fidelity, all commissions of justices of the peace shall expire and become void, in the term of seven years from their respective dates; and upon the expiration of any commission, the same may, if necessary, be renewed, or another person appointed, as shall most conduce to the well-being of the commonwealth.

IV. The judges of probate of wills, and for granting letters of administration, shall hold their courts at such places or places, on fixed days, as the convenience of the people shall require. And the legislature shall, from time to time, hereafter appoint such times and places; until which appointments, the said courts shall be holden at the times and places which the respective judges shall direct.

V. All causes of marriage, divorce and alimony, and all appeals from the judges of probate shall be heard and determined

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terminated by the Governor and council, until the legislature shall, by law make other provision.

CHAPTER IV.

DELEGATES in CONGRESS.

THE delegates of this commonwealth to the Congress of the United States, shall; sometime in the month of June annually, be elected by the joint ballot of the senate and house of representatives, assembled together in one room; to serve in Congress for one year, to commence on the first Monday in November then next ensuing. They shall have commissions under the hand of the Governor, and the great seal of the commonwealth; but may be recalled at any time within the year, and others chosen and commissioned, in the same manner, in their stead.

CHAPTER V.

The University of Cambridge, and Encouragement of Literature, &c.

SECTION I.

The UNIVERSITY.

Art. I. WHEREAS our wise and pious ancestors, so early as the year one thousand six hundred and thirty-six, laid the foundation of Harvard-college, in which university many persons of great eminence have by the blessing of God been initiated in those arts and sciences, which qualified them for public employments, both in church and state: And whereas the encouragement of arts and sciences, and all good literature, tends to the honour of God, the advantage of the Christian religion, and the great benefit of this and the other United States of America—It is declared, that the *President and Fellows of Harvard-College*, in their corporate capacity, and their successors in that capacity, their officers and servants, shall have hold, use, exercise and enjoy all the powers, authorities, rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and franchises, which they now have or

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are entitled to have, hold, use, exercise and enjoy : And the same are hereby ratified and confirmed unto them, the said president and fellows of Harvard-college, and to their successors, and to their officers and servants, respectively, forever.

II. And whereas there have been at sundry times, by divers persons, gifts, grants, devises of houses, lands, tenements, goods, chattels, legacies and conveyances, heretofore made, either to Harvard-college, in Cambridge, in New-England, or to the president and fellows of Harvard-college, or to the said college, by some other description, under several charters successively : It is declared, that all the said gifts, grants, devises, legacies, and conveyances, are hereby forever confirmed to the president and fellows of Harvard-college, and to their successors in the capacity aforesaid, according to the true intent and meaning of the donor or donors, grantor or grantors, devisor or devisors.

III. And whereas, by an act of the general-court of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, passed in the year one thousand six hundred and forty-two, the Governor and Deputy-governor for the time being, and all the magistrates of that jurisdiction, were, with the president, and a number of the clergy in the said act described, constituted the overseers of Harvard-college : And it being necessary, in this new constitution of government, to ascertain who shall be deemed successors to the said Governor, Deputy-governor, and magistrates : It is declared, that the Governor, Lieutenant-governor, council, and senate of this commonwealth, are, and shall be deemed their successors ; who, with the president of Harvard-college, for the time being, together with the ministers of the congregational churches, in the towns of Cambridge, Watertown, Charlestown, Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester, mentioned in the said act, shall be, and hereby are, vested with all the powers and authority belonging, or in any way appertaining, to the overseers of Harvard-college ; provided, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the legislature of this commonwealth, from making such alterations in the government of the said university, as shall be conducive to its advantage, and the interest of the republic of letters, in as full a manner as might have been done by the legislature of the province of Massachusetts-Bay.

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C H A P V. S E C T. H.

The Encouragement of Literature.

WISDOM and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties ; and as these depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education, in the various parts of the country, and among the different orders of the people, it shall be the duty of the legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of this commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them ; especially the University at Cambridge, public schools, and grammar schools in the towns ; to encourage private societies and public institutions, rewards and immunities, for the promotion of agriculture, arts, science, commerce, trades, manufactures, and a natural history of the country ; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality in their dealings ; sincerity, good humour, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people.

C H A P T E R VI.

Oaths and Subscriptions ; Incompatibility of any Exclusion from Offices ; Pecuniary Qualifications ; Commissions ; Writs ; Confirmation of Laws ; Habeas Corpus ; The Enacting Style ; Continuance of officers ; Provision for a future Revival of the Constitution.

Art. I Any person chosen Governor, or Lieutenant-governor, counsellor, senator, or representative, accepting the trust, shall, before he proceed to execute the duties of his place or office, make and subscribe the following declaration, viz. —

“ I, A. B. do declare, that I believe the christian religion, and have a firm persuasion of its truth ; and that I am seized and possessed, in my own right, of the property required by the constitution as one qualification for the office or place to which I am elected.”

And

And the Governor, Lieutenant-governor and counsellors shall make and subscribe the said declaration, in the presence of the two houses of assembly ; and the senators and representatives first elected under this constitution, before the president and five of the council of the former constitution, and forever afterwards before the Governor and council for the time being.

And every person chosen to either of the places or offices aforesaid, as also any person appointed or commissioned to any judicial, executive, military, or other office under the government, shall, before he enters on the discharge of the business of his place or office, take and subscribe the following declaration, and oaths or affirmations, viz.—

I, A. B. do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare, that the commonwealth of Massachusetts is, and of right ought to be, a free, sovereign and independent state ; and I do swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the said commonwealth, and that I will defend the same against traitèrous conspiracies and all hostile attempts whatsoever : And that I do renounce and abjure all allegiance, subjection and obedience to the king, queen, or government of Great-Britain, (as the case may be) and every other foreign power whatsoever : And that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate, hath, or ought to have, any jurisdiction, superiority, pre-eminence, authority dispensing or other power, in any matter, civil, ecclesiastical or spiritual, within this commonwealth ; except the authority and power which is or may be vested by their constituents in the Congress of the United States : And I do further testify and declare, that no man or body of men hath or can have any right to absolve or discharge me from the obligation of this oath, declaration or affirmation ; and that I do make this acknowledgement, profession, testimony, declaration, denial, denunciation and abjuration, heartily and truly, according to the common meaning and acceptance of the foregoing words, without any equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever. So help me God.

“ I, A. B. do solemnly swear and affirm, that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as _____ according to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeable to the rules and regulations

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regulations of the constitution, and the laws of this commonwealth. So help me God."

Provided always, that when any person chosen or appointed as aforesaid, shall be of the denomination of the people called Quakers, and shall decline taking the said oaths, he shall make his affirmation in the foregoing form, and subscribe the same, omitting the words, "*I do swear,*" "*and abjure,*" "*oath or,*" "*and abjuration,*" in the first oath; and in the second oath, the words, "*swear and;*" and in each of them the words, "*So help me God;*" substituting instead thereof, "*This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury,*"

And the said oaths or affirmations shall be taken and subscribed by the Governor, Lieutenant-governor, and councillors, before the president of the senate, in the presence of the two houses of assembly; and by the senators and representatives first elected under this constitution, before the president and five of the council of the former constitution; and for ever afterwards before the Governor and council for the time being; And by the residue of the officers aforesaid, before such persons and in such manner as from time to time shall be prescribed by the legislature.

II. No Governor, Lieutenant-governor, or judge of the supreme judicial court, shall hold any other office or place, under the authority of this commonwealth, except such as by this constitution they are admitted to hold, saving that the judges of the said court may hold the offices of justices of the peace through the state; nor shall they hold any other place or office, or receive any pension or salary from any other state or government, or power whatever.

No person shall be capable of holding or exercising at the same time, more than one of the following offices within this state, viz. judge of probate, sheriff, register of probate, or register of deeds, and never more than any two offices, which are to be held by appointment of the Governor, or the Governor and council, or the senate, or the house of representatives, or by the election of the people of the state at large, or of the people of any county, military offices, and the office of justice of the peace excepted, shall be held by one person.

No person holding the office of judge of the supreme judicial

judicial court, secretary, attorney-general, solicitor-general, treasurer or receiver-general, judge of probate, commissary-general; president, professor, or instructor of Harvard-college; sheriff, clerk of the house of representatives, register of probate, register of deeds, clerk of the supreme judicial-court, clerk of the inferior court of common-pleas, or officer of the customs, including in this description naval officers, shall at the same time have a seat in the senate or house of representatives; but their being chosen or appointed to, and accepting the same, shall operate as a resignation of their seat in the senate or house of representatives, and the place so vacated shall be filled up.

And the same rule shall take place in case any judge of the said supreme judicial court, or judge of probate, shall accept a seat in council; or any counsellor shall accept of either of those offices or places.

And no person shall ever be admitted to hold a seat in the legislature, or any office or trust of importance under the government of this commonwealth, who shall, in the due course of law, have been convicted of bribery or corruption, in obtaining an election or appointment.

III. In cases where sums of money are mentioned in this constitution, the value thereof shall be computed in silver, at six shillings and eight-pence per ounce: And it shall be in the power of the legislature from time to time to increase such qualifications, as to property, of the persons to be elected into offices, as the circumstances of the commonwealth shall require.

IV. All commissions shall be in the name of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, signed by the Governor and attested by the secretary or his deputy, and have the great seal of the commonwealth affixed thereto.

V. All writs issuing out of the clerk's office in any of the courts of law, shall be in the name of the commonwealth of Massachusetts: They shall be under the seal of the court from whence they issue: They shall bear test of the first justice of the court to which they shall be returnable, who is not a party, and be signed by the clerk of such court.

VI. All the laws which have heretofore been adopted used and approved in the province, colony, or state of Massachusetts-Bay, and usually practised on in the courts of law, shall still remain and be in full force, untill altered or repealed

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pealed by the legislature ; such parts only excepted, as are repugnant to the rights and liberties contained in this constitution.

VII- The privilege and benefit of the writ of habeas corpus shall be enjoyed in this commonwealth, in the most free, easy, cheap, expeditious and ample manner ; and shall not be suspended by the legislature, except upon the most urgent and pressing occasions, and for a limited time, not exceeding twelve months.

VIII. The enacting stile, in making and passing all acts, statutes and laws, shall, be “ Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives in general court assembled, and by the authority of the same.”

IX- To the end there may be no failure of justice, or danger arise to the commonwealth, from a change of the form of government,—all officers, civil and military, holding commissions under the government and people of Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, and all other officers of the said government and people, at the same time this constitution shall take effect, shall have, hold, use, exercise, and enjoy, all the powers and authority to them granted or committed, until other persons shall be appointed in their stead : And all courts of law shall proceed in the execution of the business of their respective departments ; and all the executive and legislative officers, bodies and powers, shall continue in full force, in the enjoyment and exercise of all their trusts, employments and authority ; until the general court, and the supreme executive officers under this constitution, are designated and invested with their respective trusts, powers and authority.

X. In order the more effectually to adhere to the principles of the constitution, and to correct those violations which by any means may be made therein, as well as to form such alterations as from experience shall be found necessary, the general court, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, shall issue precepts to the selectmen of the several towns, and to the assessors of the unincorporated plantations, directing them to convene the qualified voters of their respective towns and plantations, for the purpose of collecting their sentiments

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on the necessity or expediency of revising the constitution, in order to amendments.

And if it shall appear by the returns made, that two thirds of the qualified voters throughout the state, who shall assemble and vote in consequence of the said precepts, are in favour of such revision or amendment, the general court shall issue precepts, or direct them to be issued from the secretary's office, to the several towns to elect delegates to meet in convention for the purpose aforesaid.

The said delegates to be chosen in the same manner and proportion as their representatives in the second branch of the legislature, are by this constitution to be chosen.

XI. This form of government shall be enrolled on parchment, and deposited in the secretary's office, and be a part of the laws of the land; and printed copies thereof shall be prefixed to the book containing the laws of this commonwealth, in all future editions of the said laws.

JAMES BOWDOIN, PRESIDENT.

Attest. SAMUEL BARRETT, Secretary.

R H O D E - I S L A N D.

RHODE-ISLAND CHARTER, granted by King Charles II. in the Fourteenth Year of his Reign.

Quintadecima pars Patentium Anno Regni Regis Caroli Secundi Quintodecimo.

CHARLES the Second, by the grace of God, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting. Whereas we have been informed by the petition of our trusty and well beloved subjects, John Clark, on the behalf of Benjamin Arnold, William Brenton, William Codrington, Nicholas Easton, William Boulston, John Porter, John Smith, Samuel Gorton, John Weeks, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, Gregory Dexter, John Coggeshall, Joseph Clark, Randall Houlden, John Greene, John Roome, Samuel Wildbore, William Field, James Barker, Richard Tew, Thomas Harris, and William Dyre, and the rest of the purchasers, and free inhabitants of our island

called

called Rhode-Island, and the rest of the colony of Providence Plantations, in the Narraganset-bay in New-England in America, That they, pursuing with peace and loyal minds, their sober, serious, and religious intentions, of godly edifying themselves, and one another, in the holy Christian faith and worship as they were persuaded, together with the gaining over and conversion of the poor ignorant Indian natives, in those parts of America, to the sincere profession and obedience of the same faith and worship, did not only by the content and good encouragement of our royal progenitors, transport themselves out of this kingdom of England into America; but also since their arrival there, after their first settlement amongst other our subjects in those parts, for the avoiding of discord, and those many evils which were likely to ensue upon those our subjects, not being able to bear in those remote parts, their different apprehensions in religious concernments; and in pursuance of the afore said ends, did once again leave their desirable stations and habitations, and with excessive labour and travel, hazard and charge, did transplant themselves into the midst of the Indian natives, who, as we are informed, are the most potent princes and people of all that country; where, by the good providence of God, (from whom the plantations have taken their name) upon their labour and industry, they have not only been preserved to admiration, but have increased and prospered, and are seized and possessed by purchase and consent of the said natives, to their full content, of such lands, islands, rivers, harbours, and roads, as are very convenient both for plantations, and also for building of ships, supply of pipe-staves, and other merchandise, and which lie very commodious in many respects for commerce, and to accommodate our southern plantations, and may much advance the trade of this our realm, and greatly enlarge the territories thereof; they having, by near neighbourhood to, and friendly society with, the great body of the Narraganset indians, given them encouragement; of their own accord, to subject themselves, their people and lands, unto us; whereby, as is hoped, there may, in time, by the blessing of God upon their endeavours, be laid a sure foundation of happiness to all America. And whereas, in their humble address, they have freely declared, that it is much on their hearts

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(if they be permitted) to hold forth a lively experiment, that a most flourishing civil state may stand, and best be maintained, and that among our English subjects, with a full liberty in religious concerns, and that true piety, rightly grounded upon gospel principles, will give the best and greatest security to sovereignty, and will lay in the hearts of men the strongest obligations to true loyalty : Now, know ye, that we being willing to encourage the hopeful undertaking of our said loyal and loving subjects, and to secure them in the free exercise and enjoyment of all their civil and religious rights appertaining to them, as our loving subjects ; and to preserve unto them that liberty in the true Christian faith, and worship of God, which they have sought with so much travel, and with peaceable minds and loyal subjection to our royal progenitors, and ourselves to enjoy ; and because some of the people and inhabitants of the same colony cannot, in their private opinion, conform to the public exercise of religion, according to the liturgy, form and ceremonies of the church of England, or take or subscribe the oaths and articles made and established in that behalf ; and for that the same, by reason of the remote distances of those places, will, as we hope, be no breach of the unity and uniformity established in this nation, have therefore thought fit, and do hereby publish, grant, ordain, and declare, that our royal will and pleasure is, That no person within the said colony, at any time hereafter, shall be any-wise molested, punished, disquieted, or called in question, for any differences in opinion in matters of religion, who do not actually disturb the civil peace of our said colony ; but that all and every person and persons may, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, freely and fully have and enjoy his and their own judgments and consciences, in matters of religious concerns, throughout the tract of land hereafter mentioned, they behaving themselves peaceably and quietly, and not using this liberty to licentiousness and profaneness, nor to the civil injury or outward disturbance of others, any law, statute or clause therein contained, or to be contained, usage or custom of this realm, to the contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding. And that they may be in the better capacity to defend themselves in their just rights and liberties against all the enemies

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of the Christian faith, and others, in all respects, we have further thought fit, and at the humble petition of the persons aforesaid, are graciously pleased to declare, that they shall have and enjoy the benefit of our late act of indemnity, and free pardon as the rest of our subjects in other our dominions & territories have ; and to create & make them a body politic or corporate, with the powers or privileges hereinafter mentioned : And accordingly, our will and pleasure is, and of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have ordained, constituted and declared, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do ordain, constitute, and declare, That they the said William Brenton, William Coddington, Nicholas Easton, Benedict Arnold, William Boulton, John Porter, Samuel Gorton, John Smith, John Weeks, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, Gregory Dexter, John Coggeshall, Joseph Clarke, Randall Houlden, John Greene, John Roome, William Dyre, Samuel Wildbore, Richard Tew, William Field, Thomas Harris, James Barker,

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Williams, and John Nickson, and all such others as are now, or hereafter shall be admitted, free of the company and society of our colony of Providence Plantations, in the Narraganset-bay, in New-England, shall be, from time to time, and forever hereafter, a body corporate and politic, in fact and name, by the name of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode-Island, and Providence Plantations, in New-England, in America ; and that by the same name, they and their successors shall and may have perpetual succession, and shall and may be persons able and capable in law to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to answer and to be answered unto, to defend and to be defended, in all and singular suits, causes, quarrels, matters, actions, and things, of what kind and nature soever ; and also to have, take, possess, acquire, and purchase lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or any goods or chattels, and the same to lease, grant, demise, alien, bargain, sell, and dispose of, at their own will and pleasure, as other our liege people of this our realm of England, or any corporation or body politic within the same, may lawfully do ; and further, that they the said Governor and Company, and their successors, shall and may, for ever hereafter, have

have a common seal, to serve and use for all matters, causes, thing, and affairs whatsoever, of them and their successors, and the same seal to alter, change, break, and make new from time to time, at their will and pleasure, as they shall think fit. And further, we will and ordain, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do declare and appoint, that for the better ordering and managing of the affairs and business of the said company and their successors, there shall be one Governor, one Deputy-governor, and ten assistants, to be from time to time constituted, elected, and chosen, out of the freemen of the said company, for the time being, in such manner and form as is hereafter in these presents expressed; which said officers shall apply themselves to take care for the best disposing and ordering of the general business and affairs of and concerning the lands hereditaments herein aftermentioned to be granted, and the plantation thereof, and the government of the people there. And for the better execution of our royal pleasure herein, we do for us, our heirs and successors, assign, name, constitute and appoint, the aforesaid Benedict Arnold to be the first and present Governor of the said company, and the said William Brenton to be the Deputy-governor, and the said William Boulston, John Porter, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, John Smith, John Greene, John Coggeshall, James Barker, William Field, and Joseph Clarke, to be the ten present assistants of the said company, to continue in the said several offices respectively, until the first Wednesday which shall be in the month of May now next coming. And further, we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do ordain and grant, that the Governor of the said company, for the time being, or in his absence, by occasion of sickness, or otherwise, by his leave or permission, the Deputy-governor, for the time being, shall and may, from time to time, upon all occasions, give order for the assembling of the said company, and calling them together, to consult and advise of the business and affairs of the said company; and that for ever hereafter, twice in every year, that is to say, on every first Wednesday in the month of May, and on every last Wednesday in October, or oftener, in case it shall be requisite, the assistants, and such of the freemen of the said company,

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ny, not exceeding six persons for Newport, four persons for each of the respective towns of Providence, Portsmouth, and Warwick, and two persons for each other place, town or city, who shall be from time to time thereunto elected or deputed by the major part of the freemen of the respective towns or places, for which they shall be so elected or deputed, shall have a general meeting or assembly, then and there to consult, advise and determine, in and about affairs and business of the said company and plantations. And further, we do of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, give and grant unto the said Governor and company of the English colony of Rhode-island and Providence Plantations, in New-England, in America, and their successors, That the Governor, or in his absence, or by his permission, the Deputy-governor of the said company for the time being, the assistants, and such of the freemen of the said company, as shall be so aforesaid elected or deputed, or so many of them as shall be present at such meeting or assembly, as aforesaid, shall be called the General Assembly; and that they, or greatest part of them then present, whereof the Governor, or Deputy-governor, and six of the assistants at least, to be seven, shall have, and have hereby given and granted unto them, full power and authority, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to appoint, alter, and change such days, times and places of meeting, and general assembly, as they shall think fit, and to chuse, nominate, and appoint such and so many persons as they shall think fit, and shall be willing to accept the same, to be free of the said company and body-politic, and them into the same to admit, and to elect, and constitute such offices and officers, and to grant such needful commissions as they shall think fit and requisite, for ordering, managing, and dispatching of the affairs of the said Governor and company, and their successors; and from time to time, to make, ordain, constitute, or repeal, such laws, statutes, orders and ordinances, forms and ceremonies of government and magistracy, as to them shall seem meet, for the good and welfare of the said company, and for the government and ordering of the lands and hereditaments herein after mentioned to be granted, and of the people that do, or at any time hereafter shall inhabit, or be within

within the same ; so as such laws, ordinances, and constitutions, so made, be not contrary and repugnant unto, but as near as may be, agreeable to the laws of this our realm of England, considering the nature and constitution of the place and people there ; and also, to appoint, order, and direct, erect and settle such places and courts of jurisdiction, for hearing and determining of all actions, cases, matters and things, happening within the said colony and plantation, and which shall be in dispute, and depending there, as they shall think fit ; and also to distinguish and set forth the several names and titles, duties, powers and limits, of each court, office and officer, superior and inferior ; and also, to contrive and appoint such forms of oaths and attestations, not repugnant, but as near as may be agreeable, as aforesaid, to the laws and statutes of this our realm, as are convenient and requisite, with respect to the due administration of justice, and due execution and discharge of all offices and places of trust, by the persons that shall be therein concerned ; and also to regulate and order the way and manner of all elections to offices and places of trust, and to prescribe, limit and distinguish the number and bounds herein after mentioned, and not herein particularly named, who have or shall have the power of electing and sending of freemen to the said general assembly ; and also to order, direct and authorise, the imposing of lawful and reasonable fines, mulcts, imprisonments, and executing other punishments, pecuniary and corporal, upon offenders & delinquents, according to the course of other corporations, within this our kingdom of England ; and again, to alter, revoke, annul or pardon, under their common seal, or otherwise, such fines, mulcts, imprisonments, sentences, judgments and condemnations, as shall be thought fit ; and to direct, rule, order and dispose of all other matters and things, and particularly that which relates to the making of purchases of the native indians, as to them shall seem meet ; whereby our said people and inhabitants in the said plantations, may be so religiously, peaceably, and civilly governed, as that by their good life, and orderly conversation, they may win and invite the native indians of the country, to the knowledge and obedience of the only true God and Saviour of mankind ; willing, commanding and requiring, and by these presents, for us,
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our heirs and successors, ordaining and appointing, that all such laws, statutes, orders and ordinances, instructions, impositions and directions, as shall be so made by the Governor, Deputy, assistants and freemen, or such number of them as aforesaid, and published in writing under their common seal, shall be carefully and duly observed, kept, performed, and put in execution, according to the true intent and meaning of the same. And these our letters patents, or the duplicate or exemplification thereof, shall be to all and every such officers, superior or inferior, from time to time, for the putting of the same orders, laws, statutes, ordinances, instructions and directions, in due execution against us, our heirs and successors, a sufficient warrant and discharge. And further, our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby for us, our heirs and successors, establish and ordain, That yearly, once in the year for ever hereafter, namely, the aforesaid Wednesday in May, and at the town of Newport, or elsewhere if urgent occasion do require, the Governor, Deputy-governor, and assistants of the said company, and other officers of the said company, or such of them as the general assembly shall think fit, shall be in the said general court or assembly, to be held from that day or time, newly chosen for the year ensuing, by the greater part of the said company for the time being, as shall be then and there present. And if it shall happen, that the present Governor, Deputy-governor, and assistants, by these presents appointed, or any such who shall hereafter be newly chosen into their rooms, or any of them, or any other the officers of the said company shall die, or be removed from his or their several offices or places, before the said general day of election, (whom we do hereby declare for any misdemeanor or default, to be removable by the Governor, assistants and company, or such greater part of them, in any of the said public courts to be assembled, as aforesaid) that then, and in every such case, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Deputy-governor, assistants, and company aforesaid, or such greater part of them so to be assembled, as is aforesaid, in any of their assemblies, to proceed to a new election of one or more of their company, in the room or place, rooms or places, of such officer or officers, so dying or removed according to their directions. And immediately

ately upon and after such election or elections made of such Governor, Deputy-governor, assistant or assistants, or any other officer of the said company, in manner and form aforesaid, the authority, office and power before given to the former Governor, Deputy-governor, and other officer and officers so removed, in whose stead and place new shall be chosen, shall, as to him and them, and every of them respectively, cease and determine: Provided always, and our will and pleasure is, That as well such as are by these presents appointed to be the present Governor, Deputy-governor, and assistants of the said company, as those which shall succeed them, and all other officers to be appointed and chosen as aforesaid, shall, before the undertaking the execution of the said offices and places respectively, give their solemn engagement by oath or otherwise, for the due and faithful performance of their duties, in their several offices and places, before such person or persons as are by these presents hereafter appointed to take and receive the same; (that is to say) the said Benedict Arnold, who is herein before nominated and appointed the present Governor of the said company, shall give the aforesaid engagement before William Brenton, or any two of the said assistants of the said company, unto whom we do, by these presents, give full power and authority to require and receive the same; and the said William Brenton, who is hereby before nominated and appointed the present Deputy-governor of the said company, shall give the aforesaid engagement before the said Benedict Arnold, or any two of the assistants of the said company, unto whom we do, by these presents, give full power and authority to require and receive the same; and the said William Boulston, John Porter, Roger Williams, Thomas Olney, John Smith, John Greene, John Coggeshall, James Barker, William Field, and Joseph Clarke, who are herein before nominated and appointed the present assistants of the company, shall give the said engagement to their offices and places respectively belonging, before the said Benedict Arnold and William Brenton or one of them, to whom respectively we do hereby give full power and authority to require, administer or receive the same. And further, our will and pleasure is, that all and every other future Governor, or Deputy-governor, to be
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electd and chosen by virtue of these presents, shall give the said engagement before two or more of the said assistants of the said company for the time being, unto whom we do, by these presents, give full power and authority to require, administer and receive the same ; and the said assistants and every of them, and all and every other officer or officers, to be hereafter elected and chosen by virtue of these presents, from time to time, shall give the like engagements to their offices and places respectively belonging, before the Governor, or Deputy-governor, for the time being ; unto which said Governor, or Deputy-governor, we do by these presents give full power and authority to require, administer or receive the same accordingly. And we do likewise, for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant unto the said Governor and company, and their successors, by these presents, that for the more peaceable and orderly government of the said plantations, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Deputy-governor, assistants, and all other officers and ministers of the said company, in the administration of justice, and exercise of government, in the said plantations, to use, exercise, and put in execution, such methods, rules, orders, and directions, not being contrary and repugnant to the laws and statutes of this our realm, as have been heretofore given, used, and accustomed in such cases respectively, to be put in practice, until at the next, or some other general assembly, especial provision shall be made in the cases aforesaid. And we do further, for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant unto the said Governor and company, and their successors, by these presents, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, or in his absence the Deputy-governor, and major part of the said assistants for the time being, at any time, when the said general assembly is not sitting, to nominate, appoint and constitute such and so many Commanders, Governors, and military officers, as to them shall seem requisite, for the leading, conducting, and training up the inhabitants of the said plantations in martial affairs, and for the defence and safeguard of the said plantations ; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for all and every such Commander, Governor, and military officer, that shall be so as aforesaid, or by the Governor, or in his absence the Deputy-governor, and six of the assistants, and major part of the freemen of the said company, present at
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any general assemblies, nominated, appointed and constituted, according to the tenure of his and their respective commissions and directions, to assemble, exercise in arms, martial, array, and put in warlike posture, the inhabitants of the said colony, for their especial defence and safety; and to lead and conduct the said inhabitants, and to encounter, repulse, and resist by force of arms, as well by sea as by land, to kill, slay and destroy, by all fitting ways, enterprizes and means whatsoever, all and every such person or persons, as shall at any time hereafter attempt or enterprize the destruction, invasion, detriment or annoyance of the said inhabitants or plantations; and to use and exercise the law martial, in such cases only as occasion shall necessarily require; and to take and surprise, by all ways and means whatsoever, all and every such person and persons, with their ship or ships, armour, ammunition, or other goods of such persons as shall in hostile manner invade or attempt the defeating of the said plantation, or the hurt of the said company and inhabitants; and upon just causes to invade and destroy the natives, Indians, or other enemies of the said colony. Nevertheless, our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby declare, to the rest of our colonies in New-England, that it shall not be lawful for this our said colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations in America, in New-England, to invade the natives inhabiting within the bounds & limits of their said colonies, without the knowledge & consent of the said other colonies. And it is hereby declared, that it shall not be lawful to or for the rest of the colonies to invade or molest the native Indians, or any other inhabitants, inhabiting within the bounds or limits hereafter mentioned, (they having subjected themselves unto us, and being by us taken into our special protection) without the knowledge and consent of the Governor and company of our colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantation. Also our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby declare unto all Christian kings, princes and states, that if any person, which shall hereafter be of the said company or plantation, or any other by appointment of the said Governor and company, for the time being, shall at any time or times hereafter, rob or spoil, by sea or land, or do any hurt, or unlawful hostility, to any of the subjects of us, our heirs and successors, or to any of the subjects of any prince or state, being then in league with us,

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our heirs and successors; upon complaint of such injury done to any such prince or state, or their subjects, we, our heirs and successors, will make open proclamation, within any parts of our realm of England, fit for that purpose, that the person or persons committing any such robbery or spoil, shall, within the time limited by such proclamation, make full restitution or satisfaction of all such injuries done or committed, so as the said prince, or others so complaining, may be fully satisfied and contented; and if the said person or persons, who shall commit any such robbery or spoil, shall not make satisfaction accordingly, within such time so to be limited, that then we, our heirs and successors, will put such person or persons out of our allegiance and protection; and that then it shall and may be lawful and free for all princes or others, to prosecute with hostility such offenders, and every of them, their and every of their procurers, aiders, abettors and counsellors, in that behalf. Provided also, and our express will and pleasure is, and we do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, ordain and appoint, that these presents shall not in any manner hinder any of our loving subjects whatsoever, from using and exercising the trade of fishing upon the coast of New-England, in America, but that they, and every or any of them, shall have a full and free power and liberty to continue and use the trade of fishing upon the said coast, in any of the seas thereunto adjoining, or any arms of the sea, or salt-water, rivers and creeks, where they have been accustomed to fish, and to build and set up the waste land belonging to the said colony and plantations, such wharfs, stages, and work-houses as shall be necessary for the salting, drying and keeping of their fish, to be taken or gotten upon that coast. And further, for the encouragement of the inhabitants of our said colony of Providence Plantation, to set upon the business of taking whales, it shall be lawful for them, or any of them, having struck a whale, dubertus, or other great fish, it or them to pursue into that coast, and into any bay, river, cove, creek or shore, belonging thereto, and it or them, upon the said coast, or in the said bay, river, cove, creek, or shore belonging thereto, to kill and order for the best advantage, without molestation, they making no wilful waste or spoil; any thing in these presents contained, or any other matter or thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

withstanding. And further also, we are graciously pleased, and do hereby declare, that if any of the inhabitants of our said colony do set upon the planting of vineyards, (the soil and climate both seeming naturally to concur to the production of wines) or be industrious in the discovery of fishing-banks, in or about the said colony, we will, from time to time, give and allow all due and fitting encouragement therein, as to others in cases of like nature. And further, of our more ample grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do give and grant, unto the said Governor and company of the English colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantation in the Narraganset bay in New-England, in America, and to every inhabitant there, and to every person and persons trading thither, and to every such person or persons, as are or shall be free of the said colony, full power and authority from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to take, ship, transport, and carry away out of any of our realms and dominions, for and towards the plantation and defence of the said colony, such and so many of our loving subjects and strangers, as shall or will willingly accompany them in and to their said colony and plantation, except such person or persons as are or shall be therein restrained by us, our heirs and successors, or any law or statute of this realm; and also to ship and transport all and all manner of goods, chattels, merchandise, and other things whatsoever, that are or shall be useful and necessary for the said plantations, and defence thereof, and usually transported, and not prohibited by any law or statute of this our realm; yielding and paying unto us, our heirs and successors, such the duties, customs and subsidies, as are or ought to be paid or payable for the same. And further, our will and pleasure is, and we do, for us, our heirs and successors, ordain, declare, and grant, unto the said Governor and company, and their successors, that all and every the subjects of us our heirs and successors, which are already planted and settled within our said colony of Providence Plantations, or which shall hereafter go to inhabit within the said colony, and all and every of their children which have been born there, or which shall happen hereafter to be born there, or on the sea going thither or returning from thence, shall have and enjoy all liberties and im-

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munities of free and natural subjects, within any the dominions of us, our heirs and successors, to all intents constructions and purposes whatsoever, as if they and every of them were born within the realm of England. And further know ye, that we, of our more abundant grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have given, granted, and confirmed, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do give, grant and confirm, unto the said Governor and company, and their successors, all that part of our dominions, in New England, in America, containing the Nahantick and Nanhyganfett, alias Narraganfet-bay, and countries and parts adjacent, bounded on the West, or westerly, to the middle or channel of a river there, commonly called and known by the name of Pawcatuck alias Pawcawtuck river, and so along the said river, as the greater or middle stream thereof reacheth or lies up into the North country, northward unto the head thereof, and from thence by a strait line drawn due North, until it meet with the South line of the Massachusetts colony, and on the North or northerly, by the aforesaid South or southerly line of the Massachusetts colony or plantation, and extending towards the East or easterly three English miles, to the East and North-east of the most eastern and North-eastern parts of the aforesaid Narraganfet-bay, as the said bay lieth or extendeth itself from the ocean on the South or southwardly, unto the mouth of the river which runneth towards the town of Providence, and from thence along the eastwardly side or bank of the said river (higher called by the name of Seacunck river) up to the falls called Patucket falls, being the most westwardly line of Plymouth colony; and so from the said falls, in a strait line due North, until it meet with the aforesaid line of the Massachusetts colony, and bounded on the South by the ocean, and in particular the lands belonging to the town of Providence, Patuxit, Warwick, Misquamacock, alias Pawcatuck, and the rest upon the main land, in the tract aforesaid, together with Rhode-Island, Block-Island and all the rest of the islands and banks in the Narraganfet-bay, and bordering upon the coast of the tract aforesaid, (Fisher's-Island only excepted) together with all firm lands, soils, grounds, havens, ports, rivers, waters, fishings, mines royal, and all other mines, minerals, precious stones, quarries, woods, wood-grounds, rocks,

rocks, flates, and all and singular other commodities, jurisdictions, royalties, privileges, franchises, pre-eminence, and hereditaments whatsoever, within the said tract, bounds, lands, and islands aforesaid, to them or any of them belonging, or in any-wise appertaining. To have and to hold the same, unto the said Governor and company, and their successors for ever, upon trust, for the use and benefit of themselves and their associates, free-men of the said colony, their heirs and assigns. To be holden of us, our heirs and successors, as of the manor of East-Greenwich, in our county of Kent, in free and common soccage, and not in capite, nor by knight's service. Yielding and paying therefore to us, our heirs and successors, only the fifth part of all the ore of gold and silver, which from time to time, and at all times hereafter, shall be there gotten, had or obtained, in lieu and satisfaction of all services, duties, fines, forfeitures, made or to be made, claims or demands whatsoever, to be to us, our heirs or successors, therefore or thereabout rendered, made or paid; any grant or clause, in a late grant to the Governor and company of Connecticut colony in America, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding; the aforesaid Pawcatuck river having been yielded after much debate, for the fixed and certain bounds between these our said colonies by the agents thereof, who have also agreed, that the said Pawcatuck river shall also be called alias Narraganset or Narraganset river, and to prevent future disputes that otherwise might arise thereby, for ever hereafter shall be construed, deemed and taken to be the Narraganset river, in our late grant to Connecticut colony, mentioned as the easterly bounds of that colony. And further, our will and pleasure is, that in all matters of public controversies, which may fall out between our colony of Providence Plantation, to make their appeal therein to us, our heirs and successors, for redress in such cases, within this our realm of England; and that it shall be lawful to and for the inhabitants of the said colony of Providence Plantations, without let or molestation, to pass and repass with freedom into and throughout the rest English colonies, upon their lawful and civil occasions, and to converse, and hold commerce and trade with such of the inhabitants of our other English colonies, as shall be willing to admit them thereunto, they behaving themselves peaceably

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ably among them ; any act, clause, or sentence, in any of the said colonies provided, or that shall be provided, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. And lastly, we do for us, our heirs and successors, ordain and grant unto the said Governor and company, and their successors, by these presents, that these our letters patent, shall be firm, good, effectual, and available, in all things in the law, to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, according to our true intent and meaning herein before declared ; and shall be construed, reputed and adjudged in all cases, most favourably on the behalf, and for the best benefit and behoof of the said Governor and company, and their successors, altho' express mention, &c. In witness, &c. witnesses, &c.

Per Ipsum Regem.

[Since the commencement of hostilities by Great-Britain, the state of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations has not assumed a form of government different from that contained in the foregoing charter. For in that, the King ceded to the Governor and company, all powers, legislative, executive, and judicial, reserving to himself, as an acknowledgement of his sovereignty, a render of the fifth part of the gold and silver ore that should be found within the territory. The Governor, chief magistrates, and legislators are chosen by the freemen as usual, and all judicial and executive officers are annually elected by the Governor and company, or upper and lower house of assembly. All processes original and judicial, formerly issued in the king's name, but they now issue in the name of the Governor and company. The oaths of allegiance and of office are made conformable to the principles of the revolution. The Governor, in his legislative capacity, cannot give a negative to any act of the two houses ; but, in common with the other magistrates, has one voice only.

The state is divided into five counties, in each of which there is a court of common-pleas and general sessions of the peace, held twice every year, for the trial of all causes, not capital, that arise within their limits ; from which an appeal lies, from the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, whose jurisdiction extends over the whole state, and who also sit twice a year in each county. The constitution admits not of religious establishments, any farther than depends upon the voluntary choice of individuals.

als. All men professing one Supreme Being, are equally protected by the laws, and no particular sect can claim pre-eminence : From hence it is, that benovelence, hospitality, and undissembled honesty remarkably characterise the people.]

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C O N N E C T I C U T.

ACCOUNT of the CONSTITUTION of CONNECTICUT.

CONNECTICUT is divided into six counties, and each county is divided into a number of towns. Each town has a right to send two representatives to the general court or assembly. The general court consists of two branches called the upper and lower house. The upper house is composed of the Governor, Deputy-governor, and twelve assistants or counsellors; and the lower house of the representatives of the several towns. This court has the sole power to make and repeal laws, grant levies, dispose of lands belonging to the state, to particular towns and persons : To erect and stile judicatories and officers; as they shall see necessary for the good government of the people ; and also to call to account any court, magistrate, or other officer, for any misdemeanor or mal-administration, and for just cause may fine, displace, or remove them, or deal otherwise, as the nature of the case shall require ; and deal or act in any other matter that concerns the good of the state, except the election of Governor, Deputy-governor, assistants, treasurer, and secretary, which shall be done by the freemen at the yearly court of election, unless there be any vacancy by reason of death or otherwise, after the election, which may be filled up by the general court. This court has power also, for reasons satisfactory to them, to grant suspension, release, and jail delivery upon reprieve, in capital and criminal cases. The general court has two stated sessions annually, on the second Thursdays of May and October.

The Governor, or in his absence the Deputy-governor, may call the assembly, on special emergencies, to meet at any

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any other time. The Governor, Deputy-governor, assistants, and secretary, are annually elected on the second Thursday in May. The representatives are newly chosen for each stated session. The judges and justices are annually appointed by the general court; the same persons are commonly re-appointed from time to time during their capacity to serve, unless guilty of misbehaviour. The sheriffs are appointed by the Governor and council, without limitation of time, but may be superseded by the authority that appoints them. The Governor for the time being is captain-general of the militia; and the Deputy-governor, lieutenant-general; the other general officers, and the field officers are appointed by the general court, and commissioned by the Governor. The captains and subalterns are chosen by the vote of the company and householders living within the limits of the company; the person so chosen must be approved by the general court, and commissioned by the Governor, before they have power to execute their offices. All the military officers hold their offices during the pleasure of the assembly, nor can they resign their commissions without leave of the captain-general, under penalty of doing duty in the ranks as private soldiers.

The mode of electing the Governor, Deputy-governor, assistants, treasurer, and secretary is, that the freemen in the several towns meet on the Monday next after the first Tuesday in April annually (being the day appointed by law for that purpose, and choosing representatives) and give in their votes for the persons they choose for said offices respectively, with their names written on a paper, which votes are received and sealed up by a constable in the freemen's meeting; the votes for each of said offices in a different paper, writing on the out side the name of the town, and the office for which the votes are given in, which are sent by the representatives to the general court, to be held on the second Thursday of May next ensuing; at which time, after the house of representatives have chosen a speaker and clerk, a committee is chosen of members of both houses, to sort and count the votes, and declare the names of the persons chosen to said offices. And freemen qualified to vote for representatives, &c. may be elected to any office in the government. In choosing assistants twenty persons are nominated by the votes of the freemen, giving in at their meeting for choos-

ing representatives in September annually, and sealed up and sent to the general court in October then next, which are counted by a committee of both houses, and the twenty persons who have the greatest number of votes stand in nomination, out of which number twelve are to be chosen assistants by the freemen, the next April, in manner afore described.

The qualifications requisite to entitle a person to vote in election of the officers of government are, maturity in years, quiet and peaceable behaviour, a civil conversation, and forty shillings freehold, or forty pounds personal estate; if the selectmen of the town certify a person qualified in those respects, he is admitted a freeman, on his taking an oath of fidelity to the state.

The names of all that are thus admitted, are enrolled in the town-clerk's office, and continue freemen during life, unless disfranchised by a sentence of the superior court on conviction of a misdemeanour.

The Governor or in his absence the Deputy-governor in the upper house, and the speaker in the lower house of assembly, have a casting voice when the members of the respective houses, including the Governor and speaker, are equally divided in opinion on any question.

There is in this state a superior court, consisting of one chief judge and four other judges, which have authority in all criminal cases, extending to life, limb, and banishment, and to hear and determine all civil actions, brought by appeal from the county courts, or on writs of error. This court also hath authority in all matters of divorce. There are two stated sessions of the superior court in each county annually.

There are also county courts held in the several counties, consisting of one judge and four justices of the quorum, who have jurisdiction in all criminal cases, arising within their respective counties, where the punishment does not extend to life, limb, or banishment. The county courts also have original jurisdiction in all civil actions wherein the demand exceeds forty shillings.

The superior and county courts try matters of fact by a jury, according to the course of the common law.

Justices of the peace have authority to hear and determine civil actions where the demand does not exceed forty shillings.

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shillings. They also have authority in some cases of a criminal nature, punishable by fine not exceeding forty shillings, or whipping not exceeding ten stripes, or sitting in the stocks.

This state is also divided into a number of probate districts, less than counties ; in each of which is appointed a judge for the probate of wills, granting administration on intestate estates, appointing guardians for minors, ordering distribution of intestate estates, &c. An appeal lies from any decree of this court to the superior court.

The superior, county, and probate courts, appoint their respective clerks.

The general court has till very lately been the only court of chancery in this state. But by a late law, the county courts determine matters of equity from five pounds to two hundred pounds value ; the superior court from two hundred to eight hundred pounds value ; and the general assembly all cases exceeding the last mentioned sum.

All attornies at law are admitted and sworn by the county courts ; there is no attorney-general, but there used to be one King's attorney in each county, but since the King has abdicated the government, they are now attornies to the Governor and company.

N E W - Y O R K.

The CONSTITUTION of the State of New-York, established by the CONVENTION, authorized and empowered for that purpose, April 20, 1777.

1. **T**HIS convention, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, doth ordain, determine, and declare, that no authority shall, on any pretence whatever, be exercised over the people or members of this state, but such as shall be derived from and granted by them.

2. This convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine,

mine, and declare, that the supreme legislative power, within this state, shall be vested in two separate and distinct bodies of men; the one to be called, *The Assembly of the State of New-York*; the other to be called, *The Senate of the State of New-York*; who together shall form the legislature, and meet once at least every year for the dispatch of business.

3. And whereas, laws inconsistent with the spirit of this constitution, or with the public good, may be hastily and unadvisedly passed; be it ordained that the Governor for the time being, the chancellor, and the judges of the supreme court, or any two of them, together with the Governor, shall be, and hereby are, constituted a council to revise all bills about to be passed into laws by the legislature, and for that purpose shall assemble themselves, from time to time, when the legislature shall be convened; for which nevertheless, they shall not receive any salary or consideration, under any pretence whatever. And that all bills, which have passed the senate and assembly, shall, before they become laws, be presented to the said council for their revival and consideration; and if upon such revision and consideration, it should appear improper to the said council, or a majority of them, that the said bill should become a law of this state, that they return the same, together with their objections thereto in writing, to the senate or house of assembly, in which so ever the same shall have originated, who shall enter the objections sent down by the council, at large, in their minutes, and proceed to reconsider the said bill. But if after such reconsideration, two thirds of the said senate or house of assembly, shall, notwithstanding the said objections, agree to pass the same, it shall, together with the objections, be sent to the other branch of the legislature, where it shall also be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of the members present shall be a law.

And in order to prevent any unnecessary delays, be it further ordained, that if any bill shall not be returned by the council within ten days after it shall have been presented, the same shall be a law, unless the legislature shall, by their adjournment, render a return of the said bill within ten days impracticable; in which case the bill shall be returned on the first day of the meeting of the legislature, after the expiration of the said ten days.

4. That the assembly shall consist of at least seventy members,

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members, to be annually chosen in the several counties in the proportions following, viz.

For the city and county of New-York, *nine*.

The city and county of Albany, *ten*.

The county of Dutchess, *seven*.

The county of Westchester, *six*.

The county of Ulster, *six*.

The county of Suffolk, *five*.

The county of Queens, *four*.

The county of Orange, *four*.

The county of Kings, *two*.

The county of Richmond, *two*.

The county of Tryon, *six*.

The county of Charlotte, *four*.

The county of Cumberland, *three*.

The county of Gloucester, *two*.

5. That as soon after the expiration of seven years, subsequent to the termination of the present war as may be, a census of the electors and inhabitants in this state be taken, under the direction of the legislature. And if on such census, it shall appear, that the number of representatives in assembly from the said counties, is not justly proportioned to the number of electors in the said counties respectively, that the legislature do adjust and apportion the same by that rule. And further, that once in every seven years, after taking of the said first census, a just account of the electors resident in each county shall be taken; and if it shall thereupon appear, that the number of electors in any county, shall have increased or diminished one or more seventieth parts of the whole number of electors, which on the said first census shall be found in this state, the number of representatives for such county shall be increased or diminished accordingly, that is to say, one representative for every seventieth part as aforesaid.

6. And whereas an opinion hath long prevailed among divers of the good people of this state, that voting at elections by ballot, would tend more to preserve the liberty and equal freedom of the people than voting *viva voce* . To the end therefore, that a fair experiment be made, which of those two methods of voting is to be preferred:

Be it ordained, that as soon as may be, after the termination of the present war, between the United States of America

rica and Great-Britain, an act or acts be passed by the legislature of this state, for causing all elections thereafter to be held in this state, for senators and representatives in assembly, to be by ballot, and directing the manner in which the same shall be conducted. And whereas, it is possible, that after all the care of the legislature, in framing the said act or acts, certain inconveniences unforeseen at this day, may be found to attend the said mode of electing by ballot.

It is further ordained, that if after a full and fair experiment shall be made of voting by ballot aforesaid, the same shall be found less conducive to the safety or interest of the state, than the method of voting *viva voce*, it shall be lawful and constitutional for the legislature to abolish the same; provided two thirds of the members present in each house, respectively shall concur therein: And further, that, during the continuation of the present war, and until the legislature of this state shall provide for the election of senators and representatives in assembly by ballot, the said elections shall be made *viva voce*.

7. That every male inhabitant of full age, who shall have personally resided within one of the counties of this state, for six months immediately preceeding the day of election, shall, at such election, be entitled to vote for representatives of the said county in assembly; if during the time aforesaid he shall have been a freeholder, possessing a freehold of the value of twenty pounds, within the said county, or have rented a tenement therein of the yearly value of forty shillings, and been rated and actually paid taxes to this state: Provided always, that every person who is a freeman of the city of Albany, or who was made a freeman of the city of New-York, on or before the fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and shall be actually and usually resident in the said cities respectively, shall be entitled to vote for representatives in assembly within his said place of residence.

8. That every elector, before he is admitted to vote, shall, if required by the returning officer, or either of the inspectors, take an oath, or if the people called Quakers, an affirmation of allegiance to the state.

9. That the assembly thus constituted shall chuse their own speaker, be judges of their own members, and enjoy the

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same privileges and proceed in doing business, in like manner as the assemblies of the colony of New York of *right* formerly did ; and that a majority of the said members shall, from time to time, constitute a house to proceed upon business.

10. And this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine and declare, that the senate of the state of New-York shall consist of twenty-four freeholders, to be chosen out of the body of the freeholders, and that they be chosen by the freeholders of this state, possessed of freeholds of the value of one hundred pounds, over and above all debts charged thereon.

11. That the members of the senate be elected for four years, and immediately after the first election, they be divided by lot into four classes, six in each class, and numbered one, two, three and four ; that the seats of the members of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first year, the second class the second year, and so on continually ; to the end that the fourth part of the senate, as nearly as possible, may be annually chosen.

12. That the election of senators shall be after this manner ; that so much of this state as is now parcelled into counties, be divided into four great districts ; the southern district to comprehend the city and county of New-York, Suffolk, Westchester, Lings, Queens, and Richmond counties, the middle district to comprehend the counties of Dutchess, Ulster and Orange ; the western district, the city and county of Albany, and Tryon county ; and the eastern district, the counties of Charlotte, Cumberland, and Gloucester. That the senators shall be elected by the freeholders of the said districts, qualified as aforesaid, in the proportions following, *to wit*, in the southern district nine, in the middle district six, in the western district six, and in the eastern district three. And be it ordained, that a census shall be taken as soon as may be, after the expiration of seven years from the termination of the present war, under the direction of the legislature : And if on such census it shall appear, that the number of senators is not justly proportioned to the several districts, that the legislature adjust the proportion as near as may be, to the number of freeholders qualified as aforesaid, in each district. That when the number of electors, within
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any of the said districts, shall have increased one twenty-fourth part of the whole number of electors, which, by the said census, shall be found to be in this state, an additional senator shall be chosen by the electors of such district. That a majority of the number of senators to be chosen as aforesaid, shall be necessary to constitute a senate sufficient to proceed upon business, and that the senate shall in like manner with the assembly, be the judges of its own members. And be it ordained, that it shall be in the power of the future legislatures of this state, for the convenience and advantage of the good people thereof, to divide the same into such further and other counties and districts, as shall to them appear necessary.

13. And this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine and declare, that no member of this state shall be disfranchised, or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to the subjects of this state, by this constitution, unless by the law of the land, or the judgment of his peers.

14. That neither the assembly nor the senate shall have power to adjourn themselves for any longer time than two days, without the mutual consent of both.

15. That whenever the assembly and senate disagree, a conference shall be held in the presence of both, and be managed by committees to be by them respectively chosen by ballot. That the doors both of the senate and assembly, shall at all times be kept open to all persons, except when the welfare of the state shall require their debates to be kept secret. And the journals of all their proceedings shall be kept in the manner heretofore accustomed by the general assembly of the colony of New-York, and except such parts as they shall, as aforesaid, respectively determine not to make public, be from day to day (if the business of the legislature will permit) published.

16. It is nevertheless provided, that the number of senators shall never exceed one hundred, nor the number of assembly three hundred; but that whenever the number of senators shall amount to one hundred, or of the assembly to three hundred, then and in such case, the legislature shall from time to time thereafter, by laws for that purpose, apportion and distribute the said one hundred senators, and
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hundred representatives, among the great districts and counties of this state, in proportion to the number of their respective electors ; so that the representation of the good people of this state, both in the senate and assembly, shall for ever remain proportionate and adequate.

17. And this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare, that the supreme executive power and authority of this state shall be vested in a Governor ; and that statedly once in every three years, and as often as the seat of government shall become vacant, a wise and discreet freeholder of this state shall be by ballot elected Governor, by the freeholders of this state, qualified as before described to elect senators ; which elections shall be always held at the times and places of choosing representatives in assembly for each respective county ; and that the person who hath the greatest number of votes within the said state, shall be Governor thereof.

18. That the Governor shall continue in office three years, and shall, by virtue of his office, be general and commander in chief of all the militia, and admiral of the navy of this state ; that he shall have power to convene the assembly and senate on extraordinary occasions, to prorogue them from time to time, provided such prorogations shall not exceed sixty days in the space of one year ; and at his discretion to grant reprieves and pardons to persons convicted of crimes, other than treason or murder, in which he may suspend the execution of the sentence, until it shall be reported to the legislature at their subsequent meeting ; and they shall either pardon, or direct the execution of the criminal, or grant a farther reprieve.

19. That it shall be the duty of the Governor to inform the legislature, at every session, of the condition of the state so far as may respect his department ; to recommend such matters to their consideration as shall appear to him to concern its good government, welfare and prosperity ; to correspond with the Continental Congress, and other states ; to transact all necessary business with the officers of government, civil and military ; to take care that the laws are faithfully executed to the best of his ability ; and to expedite all such measures as may be resolved upon by the legislature.

20. That a Lieutenant-governor shall, at every election of a Governor, and as often as the Lieutenant-governor shall die, resign, or be removed from office, be elected in the same manner with the Governor, to continue in office until the next election of a Governor; and such Lieutenant-governor shall, by virtue of his office, be president of the senate, and, upon an equal division, have a casting voice in their decisions, but not vote on any other occasion.

And in case of the impeachment of the Governor, or his removal from office, death, resignation, or absence from the state, the Lieutenant-governor shall exercise all the power and authority appertaining to the office of Governor, until another be chosen, or the Governor absent or impeached, shall return or be acquitted. Provided, that where the Governor shall, with the consent of the legislature, be out of the state, in time of war, at the head of a military force thereof, he shall still continue in his command of all the military force of the state, both by sea and land.

21. That whenever the government shall be administered by the Lieutenant-governor, or he shall be unable to attend as president of the senate, the senators shall have power to elect one of their own members to the office of president of the senate, which he shall exercise *pro hac vice*. And if, during such vacancy of the office of Governor, the Lieutenant-governor shall be impeached, displaced, resign, die, or be absent from the state, the president of the senate shall in like manner as the Lieutenant-governor, administer the government, until others shall be elected by the suffrage of the people, at the succeeding election.

22. And this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine and declare, that the treasurer of this state shall be appointed by act of the legislature, to originate with the assembly: Provided, that he shall not be elected out of either branch of the legislature.

23. That all officers, other than those, who by this constitution are directed to be otherwise appointed, shall be appointed in the manner following, to wit, The assembly shall once in every year, openly nominate and appoint one of the senators from each great district, which senators shall form a council for the appointment of the said officers, of which the Governor for the time being, or the Lieutenant-governor,

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governor, or the president of the senate, when they shall respectively administer the government, shall be president, and have a casting voice, but no other vote, and with the advice and consent of the said council, shall appoint all the said officers; and that the majority of the said council be a quorum. And further, the said senators shall not be eligible to the said council for two years successively.

24. That all military officers be appointed during pleasure; that all commissioned officers civil and military, be commissioned by the Governor; and that the chancellor, the judges of the supreme court, and first judge of the county court in every county, hold their offices during good behaviour, or until they shall have respectively attained the age of sixty years.

25. That the chancellor and judges of the supreme court, shall not at the same time hold any other office, excepting that of delegate to the general Congress, upon special occasions; and that the first judges of the county courts in the several counties, shall not at the same time hold any other office, excepting that of senator, or delegate to the general Congress: But if the chancellor or either of the said judges be elected or appointed to any other office, excepting as is before excepted, it shall be at his option in which to serve.

26. That sheriffs and coroners be annually appointed; and that no person shall be capable of holding either of the said offices more than four years successively, nor the sheriff of holding any other office at the same time.

27. And be it further ordained, that the register and clerks in chancery be appointed by the chancellor; the clerks of the supreme court by the judges of the said court; the clerk of the court of probates by the judge of the said court; and the register and marshall of the court of admiralty by the judge of the admiralty. The said marshall, registers and clerks to continue in office during the pleasure of those by whom they are to be appointed as aforesaid.

And that all attorneys, solicitors and counsellors at law, hereafter to be appointed, be appointed by the court, and licensed by the first judge of the court in which they shall respectively plead or practise; and be regulated by the rules and orders of the said courts.

28. And be it further ordained. that where by this convention

vention the duration of any office shall not be ascertained, such office shall be construed to be held during the pleasure of the council of appointment : Provided that new commissions shall be issued to the judges of the county courts (other than to the first judge) and to the justices of the peace once at the least in every four years.

29. That town clerks, supervisors, assessors, constables, and collectors, and all other officers heretofore eligible by the people, shall always continue to be so eligible, in the manner directed by the present or future acts of the legislature.

That loan officers, county treasurers, and clerks of the supervisors, continue to be appointed in the manner directed by the present or future acts of the legislature.

30. That the delegates to represent this state in the general Congress of the United States of America, be annually appointed as follows, to wit, The senate and assembly shall each openly nominate as many persons as shall be equal to the whole number of delegates to be appointed ; after which nomination they shall meet together, and those persons named in both lists shall be delegates ; and out of those persons whose names are not in both lists, one half shall be chosen by the joint ballot of the senators and members of assembly, so met together as aforesaid.

31. That the stile of the laws shall be as follows, to wit, " Be it enacted, by the people of the state of New-York, represented in senate and assembly." And that all writs and other proceedings shall run in the name of the people of the state of New-York, and be tested in the name of the chancellor or chief judge of the court from whence they shall issue.

32. And this convention doth further in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare, that a court shall be instituted, for the trial of impeachments, and the correction of errors, under the regulations which shall be established by the legislature ; and to consist of the president of the senate, for the time being and the senators, chancellor, and judges of the supreme court, or the major part of them ; except, than when an impeachment shall be prosecuted against the chancellor, or either of the judges of the supreme court, the person so impeached shall be suspended from exercising his office until his

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his acquittal : And in like manner, when an appeal from a decree in equity shall be heard, the chancellor shall inform the court of the reasons of his decree, but shall not have a voice in the final sentence. And if the cause to be determined shall be brought up by writ of error on a question of law, on a judgment in the supreme court, the judges of that court shall assign the reasons of such judgment, but shall not have a voice for its affirmance or reversal.

33. That the power of impeaching all officers of the state for mal and corrupt conduct in their respective offices, be vested in the representatives of the people in assembly ; but that it shall always be necessary that two third parts of the members present shall consent to and agree in such impeachment. That previous to the trial of every impeachment, the members of the said court shall respectively be sworn, truly impartially to try and determine the charge in question, according to evidence ; and that no judgment of the said court shall be valid, unless it be assented to by two third parts of the members then present ; nor shall it extend farther than to removal from office ; and disqualification to hold and enjoy any place of honour, trust or profit, under this state. But the party so convicted, shall be, nevertheless, liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to the laws of the land.

34 And it is further ordained, that in every trial or impeachment or indictment for crimes or misdemeanours, the party impeached or indicted shall be allowed council, as in civil actions.

35. And this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare, that such parts of the common law of England, and of the statute law of England and Great-Britain, and of the acts of the legislature of the colony of New-York, as together did form the law of the said colony on the 19th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, shall be and continue the law of this state ; subject to such alterations and provisions, as the legislature of this state shall, from time to time make concerning the same. That such of the said acts as are temporary, shall expire at the times limited for their duration respectively. That all such parts of the said common law, and such of the said statutes, and acts aforesaid, or parts thereof,

thereof, as may be construed to establish or maintain any particular denomination of christians or their ministers, or concern the allegiance heretofore yielded to, and the supremacy, sovereignty, government, or prerogatives, claimed or exercised by the King of Great-Britain and his predecessors, over the colony of New-York and its inhabitants, or are repugnant to this constitution, be, and they hereby are, abrogated and rejected. And this convention doth further ordain, that the resolves or resolutions of the congresses of the colony of New-York, and of the convention of the state of New-York, now in force, and not repugnant to the government established by this constitution, shall be considered as making part of the laws of this state; subject, nevertheless, to such alterations and provisions, as the legislature of this state may, from time to time, make concerning the same.

36. And be it further ordained, that all grants of land within this state, made by the King of Great-Britain, or persons acting under his authority, after the fourteenth day of October, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, shall be null and void: But that nothing in this constitution contained, shall be construed to affect any grants of land, within this state, made by the authority of the said King or his predecessors, or to annul any charters to bodies politic, by him or them or any of them, made prior to that day. And that none of the said charters shall be adjudged to be void, by reason of any non-user or mis-user of any of their respective rights and privileges, between the nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and the publication of this constitution. And further, that all such of the officers described in the said charters respectively, as by the terms of the said charters, were to be appointed by the Governor of the colony of New-York, with or without the advice and consent of the council of the said King, in the said colony, shall henceforth be appointed by the council established by this constitution, for the appointment of officers in the state, until otherwise directed by the legislature.

37. And whereas it is of great importance to the safety of this state, that peace and amity with the Indians within the same, be at all times supported and maintained. And whereas the frauds too often practised towards the said Indians,

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Indians, in contracts made for their lands, have in divers instances been productive of dangerous discontents and animosities; be it ordained, that no purchases or contracts for the sale of lands made since the fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, or which may hereafter be made with or of the said Indians, within the limits of this state, shall be binding on the said Indians, or deemed valid, unless made under the authority, and with the consent of the legislature of this state.

38. And whereas we are required by the benevolent principles of rational liberty, not only to expel civil tyranny, but also to guard against that spiritual oppression and intolerance, wherewith the bigotry and ambition of weak and wicked priests and princes, have scourged mankind: This convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare, that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever hereafter be allowed within this state, to all mankind. Provided that the liberty of conscience, hereby granted, shall not be so construed, as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this state.

39. And whereas the ministers of the gospel, are by their profession dedicated to the service of God and the cure of souls, and ought not to be diverted from the great duties of their function; therefore no minister of the gospel, or priest of any denomination whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter, under any pretence or description whatever, be eligible to, or capable of holding any civil or military office or place, within this state.

40. And whereas it is of the utmost importance to the safety of every state, that it should always be in a condition of defence; and it is the duty of every man, who enjoys the protection of society, to be prepared and willing to defend it; this convention, therefore, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, doth ordain, determine and declare, that the militia of this state, at all times hereafter, as well in peace as in war, shall be armed and disciplined, and in readiness for service. That all such of the inhabitants of this state, being of the people called Quakers,

Quakers, from scruples of conscience, may be averse to the bearing of arms, be therefrom excused by the legislature; and do pay to the state, such sums of money in lieu of their personal service, as the same may, in the judgment of the legislature be worth: And that a proper magazine of warlike stores, proportionate to the number of inhabitants, be, forever hereafter, at the expence of this state, and by acts of the legislature, established, maintained, and continued in every county in this state.

41. And this convention doth further ordain, determine and declare, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, that trial by jury, in all cases in which it hath heretofore been used in the colony of New-York, shall be established, and remain inviolate forever. And that no acts or attainder shall be passed by the legislature of this state for crimes, other than those committed before the termination of the present war; and that such acts shall not work a corruption of blood. And further, that the legislature of this state shall, at no time hereafter, institute any new court or courts, but such as shall proceed according to the course of the common law.

43. And this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare, that it shall be in the discretion of the legislature to naturalize all such persons, and in such manner as they shall think proper; provided all such of the persons, so to be by them naturalized, as being born in parts beyond sea, and out of the United States of America, shall come to settle in, and become subjects of this state, shall take an oath of allegiance to this state, and abjure and renounce all allegiance and subjection to all and every foreign King, Prince, Potentate and state, in all matters ecclesiastical as well as civil.

By order,

LEONARD GANSEVOORT,

Pres. pro tem.

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 CONSTITUTION of NEW-JERSEY.

WHEREAS all the constitutional authority ever possessed by the Kings of Great-Britain over these colonies, or their other dominions was, by compact derived from the people, and held of them for the common interest of the whole society, allegiance and protection, are in the nature of things, reciprocal ties, each equally depending upon the other, and liable to be dissolved by the other's being refused or withdrawn. And whereas George the Third, King of Great-Britain, has refused protection to the good people of these colonies; and, by assenting to sundry acts of the British parliament, attempted to subject them to the absolute dominion of that body; and has also made war upon them in the most cruel and unnatural manner, for no other cause than asserting their just rights, all civil authority under him is necessarily at an end, and a dissolution of government in each colony has consequently taken place.

And whereas in the present deplorable situation of these colonies, exposed to the fury of a cruel and relentless enemy, some form of government is absolutely necessary, not only for the preservation of good order, but, also the more effectually to unite the people, and enable them to exert their whole force in their own necessary defence; and as the honourable the Continental Congress, the supreme council of the American colonies, has advised such of the colonies as have not yet gone into the measure, to adopt for themselves respectively, such government as shall best conduce to their own happiness and safety, and the well-being of America in general: We the representatives of the colony of New-Jersey, having been elected by all the counties in the freest manner, and in Congress assembled, have, after mature deliberations, agreed upon a set of charter rights, and the form of a constitution, in manner following, viz.

1. That the government of this province shall be vested in a Governor, legislative council, and general assembly.
2. That the legislative council and general assembly shall

be chosen, for the first time, on the second Tuesday in August next; the members whereof shall be the same in number and qualifications as is herein after mentioned; and shall be and remain vested with all the powers and authority to be held by any future legislative council and assembly of this colony, until the second Tuesday in October, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

3. That on the second Tuesday in October yearly, and every year for ever (with the privilege of adjourning from day to day, as occasion may require) the counties shall severally choose one person to be a member of the legislative council of this colony, who shall be and have been for one whole year next before the election, an inhabitant and freeholder in the county in which he is chosen, and worth at least one thousand pounds, proclamation money, of real and personal estate within the same county: That, at the same time, each county shall also choose three members of assembly; provided, that no person shall be entitled to a seat in the said assembly, unless he be and have been for one whole year next before the election, an inhabitant of the county he is to represent, and worth five hundred pounds proclamation money in real and personal estate, in the same county: That on the second Tuesday after the day of election, the council and assembly shall separately meet; and that the consent of both houses shall be necessary to every law; provided, that seven shall be a quorum of the council for doing business, and that no law shall pass, unless there be a majority of all the representatives of each body personally present, and agreeing thereto. Provided always, that if a majority of the representatives of this province, in council and general assembly convened, shall, at any time or times hereafter, judge it equitable and proper to add or diminish the number or proportion of the members of assembly for any county or counties in this colony, then, and in such case the same may, on the principles of more equal representation, be lawfully done, any thing in this charter to the contrary notwithstanding, so that the whole number of representatives in assembly shall not at any time be less than thirty-nine.

4. That all inhabitants of this colony of full age, who are worth fifty pounds, proclamation money, clear estate in the

the same, and have resided within the county in which they claim a vote, for twelve months immediately preceding the election, shall be entitled to a vote for representatives in council and assembly; and also for all other public officers that shall be elected by the people of the county at large.

5. That the assembly, when met, shall have power to chuse a speaker, and other their officers; to be judges of the qualifications and elections of their own members; sit upon their own adjournments; prepare bills to be passed into laws; and to empower the speaker to convene them, whenever any extraordinary occurrence shall render it necessary.

6. That the council shall also have power to prepare bills to pass into laws, and have other like powers as the assembly, and in all respects to be a free and independent branch of the legislature of this colony; save only, that they shall not prepare or alter any money bill, which shall be the privilege of the assembly, that the council shall, from time to time, be convened by the Governor or vice-president, but must be convened at all times when the assembly sits; for which purpose the speaker of the house of assembly shall always immediately after an adjournment give notice to the Governor or vice-president, of the time and place to which the house is adjourned.

7. That the council and assembly jointly, at their first meeting after each annual election, shall, by a majority of votes, elect some fit person within the colony to be Governor for one year, who shall be constant president of the council, and have a casting vote in their proceedings; and that the council themselves shall choose a vice-president, who shall act as such in the absence of the Governor.

8. That the Governor; or on his absence, the vice-president of the council, shall have the supreme executive power, be chancellor of the colony, and act as Captain-general and commander in chief of all the militia and other military force in this colony; and that any three or more of the council shall, at all times, be a privy-council to consult them; and that the Governor be ordinary or Surrogate-general.

9. That the Governor and council, (seven whereof shall be a quorum) be the court of appeals in the last resort in

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all clauses of law, as heretofore ; and that they possess the power of granting pardons to criminals after condemnation, in all cases of treason, felony and other offences.

10. That captains, and all other inferior officers of the militia, shall be chosen by the companies in the respective counties ; but field and general officers by the council and assembly.

11. That the council of the assembly shall have power to make the great seal of this colony, which shall be kept by the Governor, or in his absence, by the vice-president of the council, to be used by them, as occasion may require ; and it shall be called *The great seal of the colony of New-Jersey.*

12. That the judges of the supreme court shall continue in office for seven years ; the judges of the inferior court of common pleas in the several counties, justices of the peace, clerks of the supreme court, clerks of the inferior court of common pleas and quarter sessions, the attorney-general, and provincial secretary, shall continue in office for five years, and the provincial treasurer shall continue in office for one year ; and that they shall be severally appointed by the council and assembly in manner aforesaid, and commissioned by the Governor, or in his absence the vice-president of the council. Provided always, that the said officers severally, shall be capable of being re-appointed at the end of the terms severally before limited ; and that any of the said officers shall be liable to be dismissed, when adjudged guilty of misbehaviour, by the council on an impeachment of the assembly.

13. That the inhabitants of each county, qualified to vote as aforesaid, shall, at the time and place of electing the representatives, annually elect one sheriff, and one or more coroners ; and that they may re-elect the same person to such offices until he shall have served three years, but no longer ; after which three years must elapse before the same person is capable of being elected again. When the election is certified to the Governor or vice-president, under the hands of six freeholders of the county for which they were elected, they shall be immediately commissioned to serve in their respective offices.

14. That the townships, at their annual town meetings for electing other officers, shall chuse constables for the districts

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tricts respectively ; and also three or more judicious freeholders of good character, to hear and finally determine all appeals relative to unjust assessments in cases of public taxation ; which commissioners of appeal shall for that purpose, sit at some suitable time or times to be by them appointed, and made known to the people by advertisements.

15. That the laws of the colony shall begin in the following stile, viz. *Be it enacted by the council and general assembly of this colony, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same* : that all commissions granted by the Governor or vice-president, shall run thus—*The colony of New-Jersey to A. B. &c. greeting* : And that all writs shall likewise run in the name of the colony : And that all indictments shall conclude in the following manner, viz. *Against the peace of this colony, the government and dignity of the same,*

16. That all criminals shall be admitted to the same privileges of witnesses and counsel, as their prosecutors are or shall be entitled to.

17. That the estates of such persons as shall destroy their own lives shall not, for that offence, be forfeited ; but shall descend in the same manner as they would have done, had such persons died in the natural way ; nor shall any article which may occasion accidentally the death of any one, be henceforth deemed a deodand, or in any-wise forfeited on account of such misfortune.

18. That no person shall ever within this colony be deprived of the inestimable privilege of worshiping Almighty God in a manner agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience ; nor under any pretence whatever be compelled to attend any place of worship, contrary to his own faith and judgment ; nor shall any person within this colony ever be obliged to pay tithes, taxes, or any other rates, for the purpose of building or repairing any other church or churches, place or places of worship, or for the maintenance of any minister or ministry, contrary to what he believes to be right, or has deliberately or voluntarily engaged himself to perform.

19. That there shall be no establishment of any one religious sect in this province, in preference to another ; and that no protestant inhabitants of this colony shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil right, merely on account of his religious principles ; but that all persons, professing a belief

belief in the faith of any protestant sect, who shall demean themselves peaceably under the government as hereby established, shall be capable of being elected into any office of profit or trust, or being a member of any branch of legislature, and shall fully and freely enjoy every privilege and immunity enjoyed by others their fellow subjects.

20. That the legislative department of this government may, as much as possible, be preserved from all suspicion of corruption, none of the judges of the supreme or other courts, sheriffs, or any other person or persons possessed of any post of profit under the government, other than justices of the peace, shall be entitled to a seat in the assembly; but that on his being elected and taking his seat, his office or post shall be considered as vacant.

21. That all the laws of this province, contained in the edition lately published by Mr. Allinson, shall be and remain in full force, untill altered by the legislature of this colony (such only excepted as are incompatible with this charter) and shall be, according as heretofore, regarded in all respects, by all civil officers, and others, the good people of this province.

22. That the common law of England, as well as so much of the statute law as have been heretofore practised in this colony, shall still remain in force. until they shall be altered by a future law of the legislature; such parts only excepted as are repugnant to the rights and privileges contained in this charter; and that the inestimable right of trial by jury shall remain confirmed, as a part of the law of this colony, without repeal for ever.

23. That every person who shall be elected as aforesaid, to be a member of the legislative council or house of assembly, shall, previous to his taking his seat in council or assembly, take the following oath or affirmation, *viz.*

"I, A B, do solemnly declare, that as a member of the legislative council (or assembly, as the case may be) of the colony of New-Jersey, I will not assent to any law, vote, or proceeding, which shall appear to me injurious to the public welfare of the said colony, nor that shall annul or repeal that part of the third section in the charter in this colony, which establishes that the elections of members of the legislative council and assembly shall be annual, nor that part of the twenty-second section in said charter, respecting the

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the trial by jury, nor that shall annul, repeal, or alter any part or parts of the eighteenth or nineteenth sections of the same."

And any person or persons, who shall be elected as aforesaid, is hereby empowered to administer to the said members, the said oath or affirmation.

Provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this congress, that if a reconciliation between Great-Britain and these colonies should take place, and the latter be taken again under the protection and government of the crown of Britain, this charter shall be null and void, otherwise to remain firm and inviolable.

In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, New-Jersey, Burlington,
July 2, 1776.

By order of Congress,

SAMUAL TUCKER, PRESIDENT.

Extract from the Minutes,

WILLIAM PATERSON, Secretary.

P E N N S Y L V A N I A.

The CONSTITUTION *of the Commonwealth of*
Pennsylvania, *as established by the* GENERAL CONVEN-
TION, *elected for that purpose, and held at Philadelphia,*
July 15, 1776, and continued by Adjournment to Sept. 28,
1776.

WHETHERAS all government ought to be instituted and supported for the security and protection of the community as such, and to enable the individuals who compose it to enjoy their natural rights, and the other blessings which the author of existence has bestowed upon man; and whenever these great ends of government are not obtained, the people have a right, by common consent to change it, and take such measures as to them may appear necessary to promote their safety and happiness. And whereas the inhabitants of this commonwealth have, in consideration of
protection

protection only, heretofore acknowledged allegiance to the King of Great-Britain, and the said King has not only withdrawn that protection, but commenced, and still continues to carry on, with unabated vengeance, a most cruel and unjust war against them, employing therein, not only the troops of Great-Britain, but foreign mercenaries, savages and slaves, for the avowed purpose of reducing them to a total and abject submission, to the despotic domination of the British parliament, with many other acts of tyranny (more fully set forth in the declaration of Congress) whereby all allegiance and fealty to the said King and his successors, are dissolved and at an end, and all power and authority derived from him ceased in these colonies. And whereas it is absolutely necessary for the welfare any safety of the inhabitants of said colonies, that they be henceforth free and independent states, and that just, permanent, and proper forms of government exist in every part of them, derived from and founded on the authority of the people only, agreeable to the directions of the honourable American Congress. We the representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general convention met, for the express purpose of framing such a government, confessing the goodness of the great Governor of the universe (who alone knows to what degree of earthly happiness mankind may attain, by perfecting the arts of government) in permitting the people of this state, by common consent, and without violence, deliberately to form for themselves such just rules as they shall think best, for governing their future society; and being fully convinced, that it is our indispensable duty to establish such original principles of government, as will best promote the general happiness of the people of this state, and their posterity, and provide for future improvements, without partiality for, or prejudice against any particular class, sect, or denomination of men whatever, do, by virtue of the authority, vested in us by our constituents, ordain, declare, and establish, the following *Declaration of Rights, and Frame of Government*, to be the CONSTITUTION of this commonwealth, and to remain in force therein forever, unaltered, except in such articles as shall hereafter on experience be found to require improvement, and which shall by the same authority of the people, fairly delegated as this frame of government directs, be amended or improved for

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the more effectual obtaining and securing the great end and design of all government, herein beforementioned.

C H A P T E R I.

*A DECLARATION of the RIGHTS
of the Inhabitants of the State of Pennsylvania.*

1. **T**HAT all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

2. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences and understanding: And that no man ought, or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect any place of worship, or maintain any minister, contrary to, or against, his own free will and consent: Nor can any man, who acknowledges the being of God, be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right as a citizen on account of his religious sentiments. And that no authority can or ought to be invested in, or assumed by any power whatever, that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner controul, the right of conscience in the free exercise of religious worship.

3. The people of this state have the sole, exclusive and inherent right of governing and regulating the internal police of the same.

4. That all power being originally inherent in, and consequently derived from, the people; therefore all officers of government, whether legislative or executive, are their trustees and servants, and at all times accountable to them.

5. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; and not for the advantage of any single man, family, or set of men, who are a part only of that community: And that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish

abolish government in such manner, as shall be by the community judged most conducive to the public weal.

6. That those who are employed in the legislative and executive business of the state may be restrained from oppression, the people have a right, at such periods as they may think proper, to reduce their public officers to a private station, and supply the vacancies by certain and regular elections.

7. That all elections ought to be free; and that all free-men having a sufficient evident common interest with, and attachment to the community, have a right to elect officers, or be elected into office.

8. That every member of society has a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and therefore is bound to contribute his proportion towards the expence of that protection, and yield his personal service, when necessary, or an equivalent thereto: but no part of a mans property can be justly taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of his legal representatives: Nor can any man who is conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, be justly compelled thereto, if he will pay such equivalent: Nor are the people bound by any laws, but such as they have in like manner assented to, for their common good.

9. That in all prosecutions for criminal offences, a man hath a right to be heard by himself and his council, to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses, to call for evidence in his favour, and a speedy public trial, by an impartial jury of the country, without the unanimous consent of which jury he cannot be found guilty: Nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself: Nor can any man be justly deprived of his liberty except by the laws of the land, or the judgment of his peers.

10. That the people have a right to hold themselves, their houses, papers, and possessions free from search or seizure; and therefore, warrants without oaths or affirmations first made, affording a sufficient foundation for them, and whereby any officer or messenger may be commanded or required to search suspected places, or to seize any person or persons, or their property, not particularly described, are contrary to that right and ought not to be granted,

11. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the parties have a right to trial by jury, which ought to be held sacred.

12. That the people have a right to freedom of speech, and of writing and publishing their sentiments; therefore the freedom of the press ought not to be restrained.

13. That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the state; and as standing armies in the time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up: And that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

14. That a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry, and frugality, are absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty, and keep a government free: The people ought therefore to pay particular attention to these points in the choice of officers and representatives, and have a right to exact a due and constant regard to them, from their legislators and magistrates, in making and executing such laws as are necessary for the good government of the state.

15. That all men have a natural inherent right to emigrate from one state to another that will receive them, or to form a new state in vacant countries, or in such countries as they can purchase, whenever they think that thereby they may promote their own happiness.

16. That the people have a right to assemble together, to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to the legislature for redress of grievances, by address, petition, or remonstrance.

C H A P T E R II.

P L A N or F R A M E of G O V E R N M E N T.

Seet. 1. **T**HE commonwealth or state of Pennsylvania shall be governed hereafter by an assembly the representatives of the freemen of the same, and a president and council, in manner and form following—

Seet. 2. The supreme legislative power shall be vested in a house of representatives of the freemen of the commonwealth or state of Pennsylvania.

Seet.

Sect. 3. The supreme executive power shall be vested in a president and council.

Sect. 4. Courts of justice shall be established in the city of Philadelphia, and in every county of this state.

Sect. 5. The freemen of this commonwealth and their sons shall be trained and armed for its defence, under such regulations, restrictions, and exceptions, as the general assembly shall by law direct, preserving always to the people the right of choosing their colonel, and all commissioned officers under that rank, in such manner and as often as by the said laws shall be directed.

Sect. 6. Every freeman of the full age of twenty-one years, having resided in this state for the space of one whole year next before the day of election for representatives, and paid public taxes during that time, shall enjoy the right of an elector: Provided always, that sons of freeholders of the age of twenty-one years shall be entitled to vote, altho' they have not paid taxes.

Sect. 7. The house of representatives of the freemen of this commonwealth, shall consist of persons most noted for wisdom and virtue, to be chosen by the freemen of every city and county of this commonwealth respectively. And no person shall be elected unless he has resided in the city or county for which he shall be chosen, two years immediately before the said election; nor shall any member, while he continues such, hold any other office, except in the militia.

Sect. 8. No person shall be capable of being elected a member to serve in the house of representatives of the freemen of this commonwealth more than four years in seven.

Sect. 9. The members of the house of representatives shall be chosen annually by ballot, by the freemen of the commonwealth, on the second Tuesday in October forever, (except this present year) and shall meet on the fourth Monday of the same month, and shall be styled, *The General Assembly of Representatives of the Freemen of Pennsylvania*, and shall have power to chuse their speaker, the treasurer of the state, and their other officers; sit on their own adjournments; prepare bills and enact them into laws; judge of the elections and qualifications of their own members; they may expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause; they may administer oaths or affirmations on examination of witnesses; redress grievances; impeach state criminals;

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grant charters of incorporation ; constitute towns, boroughs, cities and counties ; And shall have all other powers necessary for the legislature of a free state or commonwealth : But they shall have no power to add to, alter, abolish, or infringe any part of this constitution.

Sec. 10. A quorum of the house of representatives shall consist of two thirds of the whole number of members elected ; and having met and chosen their speaker, shall each of them before they proceed to business, take and subscribe, as well the oath or affirmation of fidelity and allegiance herein after directed, as the following oath or affirmation, *viz.*

“ I do swear (or affirm) that as a member of this assembly, I will not propose or assent to any bill, vote, or resolution, which shall appear to me injurious to the people ; nor do or consent to any act or thing whatever, that shall have a tendency to lessen or abridge their rights and privileges, as declared in the constitution of this state ; but will in all things conduct myself as a faithful honest representative and guardian of the people, according to the best of my judgment and abilities.”

And each member before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, *viz.*

“ I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.”

And no farther or other religious test shall ever hereafter be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this state.

Sec. 11. Delegates to represent this state in Congress, shall be chosen by ballot by the future general assembly at their first meeting, and annually for ever afterwards, as long as such representation shall be necessary. Any delegate may be superseded at any time, by the general assembly appointing another in his stead. No man shall sit in Congress longer than two years successively, nor be capable of re-election for three years afterwards : And no person who holds any office in the gift of Congress, shall hereafter be elected to represent this commonwealth in Congress.

Sec. 12. If any city or cities, county or counties, shall neglect or refuse to elect and send representatives to the general assembly, two thirds of the members from the cities or counties that do elect and send representatives, provided they

they may be a majority of the cities and counties of the whole state, when met shall have all the powers of the general assembly, as fully and amply as if the whole were present.

Sect. 13. The doors of the house in which the representatives of the freemen of this state shall sit in general assembly, shall be and remain open for the admission of all persons who behave decently, except only when the welfare of this state may require the doors to be shut.

Sect. 14. The votes and proceedings of the general assembly shall be printed weekly during their sitting, with the yeas and nays on any question, vote, or resolution, where any two members require it, except when the vote is taken by ballot; and when the yeas and nays are so taken, every member shall have a right to insert the reasons of his vote upon the minutes, if he desire it.

Sect. 15. To the end that the laws before they are enacted may be more maturely considered, and the inconvenience of hasty determinations as much as possible prevented, all bills of public nature shall be printed for the consideration of the people, before they are read in general assembly the last time for debate and amendment; and except on occasions of sudden necessity shall not be passed into laws until the next session of assembly; and for the more perfect satisfaction of the public, the reasons and motives for making such laws shall be fully and clearly expressed in the preambles.

Sect. 16. The stile of the laws of this commonwealth shall be, "Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the representatives of the people of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, and by the authority of the same." And the general assembly shall affix their seal to every bill, as soon as it is enacted into a law, which seal shall be kept by the assembly, and shall be called, *The seal of the laws of Pennsylvania*, and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Sect. 17. The city of Philadelphia, and each county in this commonwealth respectively, shall on the first Tuesday of November in the present year, and on the second Tuesday in October, annually, for the two next succeeding years, to wit, the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, and the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, choose six persons to represent them in general assembly. But as representation in proportion to the number of taxable

taxable inhabitants, is the only principle which can at all times secure liberty, and make the voice of a majority of the people the law of the land; therefore, the general assembly shall cause complete lists of the taxable inhabitants in the city and each county in the commonwealth respectively, to be taken, and returned to them, on or before the last meeting of the assembly, elected in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, who shall appoint a representation to each, in proportion to the number of taxables in such returns; which representation shall continue for the next seven years afterwards, at the end of which, a new return of the taxable inhabitants shall be made, and a representation agreeable thereto appointed by the said assembly, and so on septennially for ever. The wages of the representatives in general assembly, and all other state charges shall be paid out of the state treasury.

Sec. 18. In order that the freemen of this commonwealth may enjoy the benefit of election as equally as may be, until the representation shall commence, as directed in the foregoing section, each county at its own choice may be divided into districts, hold elections therein, and elect their representatives in the county, and their other elective officers, as shall be hererafter regulated by the general assembly of this state. And no inhabitant of this state shall have more than one annual vote at the general election for representatives in assembly.

Sec. 19 For the present the supreme executive council of this state shall consist of twelve persons, chosen in the following manner: The freemen of the city of Philadelphia, and of the counties of Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks, respectively, shall choose by ballot one person for the city, and one for each county aforesaid, to serve for three years and no longer, at the time and place for electing representatives in general assembly. The freemen of the counties of Lancaster, York, Cumberland, and Berks, shall, in like manner, elect one person in each county respectively, to serve as counsellors for two years, and no longer. And the counties of Northampton, Bedford, Northumberland and Westmorland, respectively, shall, in like manner elect one person for each county, to serve as counsellors for one year and no longer. And at the expiration of the time for which each counsellor was chosen to serve, the freemen of the city of Philadelphia,

phia, and of the several counties in this state respectively, shall elect one person to serve as counsellor for three years and no longer; and so on every third year for ever. By this mode of election and continual rotation, more men will be trained to public business, there will in every subsequent year be found in the council, a number of persons acquainted with the proceedings of the foregoing years, whereby the business will be more consistently conducted, and moreover the danger of establishing an inconvenient aristocracy will be effectually prevented. All vacancies in the council that may happen by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled at the next general election for representatives in general assembly, unless a particular election for that purpose shall be sooner appointed by the president and council. No member of the general assembly, or delegate in Congress, shall be chosen a member of the council. The president and vice-president shall be chosen annually, by the joint ballot of the general assembly and council, of the members of the council. Any person having served as a counsellor for three successive years, shall be incapable of holding that office for four years afterwards. Every member of the council shall be a justice of the peace for the whole commonwealth, by virtue of his office.

In case new additional counties shall hereafter be erected in this state, such county or counties shall elect a counsellor and such county or counties shall be annexed to the next neighbouring counties, and shall take rotation with such counties.

The council shall meet annually, at the same time and place with the general assembly.

The treasurer of the state, trustees of the loan-office, naval office, collectors of the customs or excise, judge of the admiralty, attornies-general, sheriffs and prothonotaries, shall not be capable of a seat in the general assembly, executive council, or Continental Congress.

Sec. 20 The president, and in his absence the vice-president with the council, five of whom shall be a quorum, shall have power to appoint and commissionate judges, naval officers, judge of the admiralty, attorney-general, and all other officers civil and military, except such as are chosen by the general assembly or the people, agreeable to this frame of government, and the laws that may be made here-

after;

after ; and shall supply every vacancy, in any office occasioned by death, resignation, removal, or disqualification, until the office can be filled in the time and manner directed by law or this constitution. They are to correspond with other states, and transact business with the officers of government, civil and military ; and prepare such business as appears to them necessary, to lay before the general assembly. They shall sit as judges to hear and determine on impeachments, taking to their assistance, for advice only, the justices of the supreme court. And shall have power to grant pardons, and remit fines in all cases whatsoever, except in cases of impeachment ; and in cases of treason and murder, shall have power to grant reprieves, but not to pardon, until the end of the next sessions of assembly ; but there shall be no remission or mitigation of punishments on impeachments, except by act of the legislature ; they are also to take care that the laws be faithfully executed ; they are to expedite the execution of such measures as may be resolved upon by the general assembly ; and they may draw upon the treasury for such sums as shall be appropriated by the house ; they may also lay embargoes, or prohibit the exportation of any commodity for any time, not exceeding thirty days, in the recess of the house only : They may grant such licences as shall be directed by law ; and shall have power to call together the general assembly when necessary, before the day to which they shall stand adjourned. The president shall be commander in chief of the forces of the state, but shall not command in person, except advised thereto by the council, and then only so long as they shall approve thereof. The president and council shall have a secretary, and keep fair books of their proceedings, wherein any counsellor may enter his dissent, with his reasons in support of it.

Sec. 21. All commissions shall be in the name and by the authority of the freemen of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sealed with the state seal, signed by the president or vice-president and attested by the secretary ; which seal shall be kept by the council.

Sec. 22. Every officer of state, whether judicial or executive, shall be liable to be impeached by the general assembly, either when in office, or after his resignation, or removal for mal-administration : All impeachments shall be

before the president or vice-president and council, who shall hear and determine the same.

Sect. 23. The judges of the supreme court of judicature shall have fixed salaries, be commissioned for seven years only, though capable of re-appointment at the end of that term, but removeable for misbehaviour at any time by the general assembly; they shall not be allowed to sit as members in the Continental Congress, executive council, or general assembly, nor to hold any other office civil or military, nor to take or receive fees or perquisites of any kind.

Sect. 24. The supreme court, and the several courts of common pleas of this commonwealth, shall, besides the powers usually exercised by such courts, have the powers of a court of chancery, so far as relates to the perpetuating testimony, obtaining evidence from places not within this state. and the care of the persons and estates of those who are *non compos mentis*, and such other powers as may be found necessary by future general assemblies, not inconsistent with this constitution.

Sect. 25. Trials shall be by jury as heretofore: And it is recommended to the legislature of this state to provide by law against every corruption of partiality in the choice, return, or appointment of juries.

Sect. 26. Courts of sessions, common pleas, and orphans' courts shall be held quarterly in each city and county; and the legislature shall have power to establish all other courts as they may judge for the good of the inhabitants of the state. All courts shall be open, and justice shall be impartially administered, without corruption or unnecessary delay: All their officers shall be paid an adequate but moderate compensation for their services: And if any officer shall take greater or other fees than the laws allow him, either directly or indirectly, it shall ever after disqualify him from holding any office in this state.

Sect. 27. All prosecutions shall commence in the name and by the authority of the freemen of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and all indictments shall conclude with these words, "*Against the peace and dignity of the same.*" The style of all process hereafter in this state shall be, *The commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

Sect. 28. The person of a debtor, where there is not a strong presumption of fraud, shall not be continued in pri-

son.

son, after delivering up, *bona fide*, all his estate real and personal, for the use of his creditors, in such manner as shall be hereafter regulated by law. All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or the presumption great.

Sect. 29. Excessive bail shall not be exacted for bailable offences: And all fines shall be moderate.

Sect. 30. Justices of the peace shall be elected by the freeholders of each city and county respectively, that is to say, two or more persons may be chosen for each ward, township, or district, as the law shall hereafter direct: And their names shall be returned to the president in council, who shall commissionate one or more of them for each ward, township, or district so returning for seven years, removable for misconduct by the general assembly: But if any city or county, ward, township, or district in this commonwealth, shall hereafter incline to change the manner of appointing their justices of the peace, as settled in this article, the general assembly may make laws to regulate the same, agreeable to the desire of a majority of the freeholders of the city or county, ward, township, or district so applying. No justice of the peace shall sit in the general assembly, unless he first resign his commission, nor shall he be allowed to take any fees, nor any salary or allowance, except such as the future legislature may grant.

Sect. 31. Sheriffs and coroners shall be elected annually in each city and county, by the freemen; that is to say, two persons for each office, one of whom for each, is to be commissioned by the president in council. No person shall continue in the office of sheriff more than three successive years, or be capable of being again elected during four years afterwards. The election shall be held at the same time and place appointed for the election of representatives: And the commissioners and assessors, and other officers chosen by the people, shall also be then and there elected, as has been usually heretofore, until altered or otherwise regulated by the future legislature of this state.

Sect. 32. All elections, whether by the people or in general assembly shall be by ballot, free and voluntary: And any elector, who shall receive any gift or reward for his vote, in meat, drink, monies, or otherwise, shall forfeit his right to elect for that time, and suffer such other penal-

ty as future laws shall direct. And any person who shall directly or indirectly give, promise, or bestow any such rewards to be elected, shall be thereby rendered incapable to serve for the ensuing year.

Sect. 33. All fees, licence money, fines, and forfeitures heretofore granted, or paid to the Governor, or his deputies for the support of government, shall hereafter be paid into the public treasury, unless altered or abolished by the future legislature.

Sect. 34. A register's office for the probate of wills, and granting letters of administration, and an office for the recording of deeds, shall be kept in each city and county: The officers to be appointed by the general assembly, removeable at their pleasure, and to be commissioned by the president in council.

Sect. 35. The printing presses shall be free to every person who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature, or any part of government.

Sect. 36. As every freeman to preserve his independence, (if without a sufficient estate) ought to have some profession, calling, trade or farm, whereby he may honestly subsist, there can be no necessity for, nor use in establishing offices of profit; the usual effects of which are dependence and servility, unbecoming freemen, in the possessors and expectants; faction, contention, corruption, and disorder among the people. But if any man is called into public service, to the prejudice of his private affairs, he has a right to a reasonable compensation: And whenever an office, through increase of fees, or otherwise, becomes so profitable as to occasion many to apply for it, the profits ought to be lessened by the legislature.

Sect. 37. The future legislature of this state shall regulate entails in such a manner as to prevent perpetuities.

Sect. 38. The penal laws as heretofore used, shall be reformed by the legislature of this state, as soon as may be, and punishments made in some cases less sanguinary, and in general more proportionate to the crimes.

Sect. 39. To deter more effectually from the commission of crimes, by continued visible punishment of long duration, and to make sanguinary punishments less necessary, houses ought to be provided for punishing by hard labour, those who shall be convicted of crimes not capital; wherein the

criminals

criminals shall be employed for the benefit of the public, or for reparation of injuries done to private persons: And all persons at proper times shall be admitted to see the prisoners at their labour.

SECT. 40. Every officer, whether judicial, executive, or military, in authority under this commonwealth, shall take the following oath or affirmation of allegiance, and general oath of office, before he enter on the execution of his office: The oath or affirmation of allegiance. “ I do swear (or affirm) that I will be true and faithful to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania: And that I will not directly or indirectly do any act or thing prejudicial or injurious to the constitution or government thereof, as established by the convention.” The oath or affirmation of office. “ I do swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of for the of and will do equal right and justice to all men to the best of my judgment and abilities, according to law.”

SECT. 41. No public tax, custom, or contribution shall be imposed upon, or paid by the people of this state, except by a law for that purpose: Before any law be made for raising it, the purpose for which any tax is to be raised, ought to appear clearly to the legislature to be of more service to the community than the money would be, if not collected; which being well observed, taxes can never be burdens.

SECT. 42. Every foreigner of good character, who comes to settle in this state, having first taken an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the same, may purchase, or by other just means acquire, hold, and transfer land or other real estate; and after one years residence shall be deemed a free citizen thereof, and entitled to all the rights of a natural born subject of this state, except that he shall not be capable of being elected a representative, until after two years residence.

SECT. 43. The inhabitants of this state shall have liberty to fowl and hunt in seasonable times on the lands they hold, and on all other lands therein, not inclosed; and in like manner to fish in all boatable waters, and others, not private property.

SECT. 44. A school or schools shall be established in each county by the legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters paid by the public as may

may enable them to instruct youth at low prices : And all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more universities.

Sect. 45. Laws for the encouragement of virtue, and prevention of vice and immorality, shall be made and always kept in force, and provision shall be made for their due execution : And all religious societies or bodies of men heretofore united or incorporated for the advancement of religion and learning, or for other pious and charitable purposes, shall be encouraged and protected in the enjoyment of the privileges immunities and estate, which they were accustomed to enjoy, or could of right have enjoyed, under the laws and former constitution of this state.

Sect. 46. The declaration of rights is hereby declared to be a part of the constitution of this commonwealth, and ought never to be violated on any pretence whatever.

Sect. 47. That the freedom of this commonwealth may be preserved inviolate for ever, there shall be chosen by ballot by the freemen in each city and county respectively, on the second Tuesday in October, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eight-three, and on the second Tuesday in October in every seventh year thereafter, two persons in each city and county of this state, to be called, *The Council of Censors*, who shall meet together on the second Monday of November, next ensuing their election ; the majority of whom shall be a quorum in every case, except as to calling a convention, in which two thirds of the whole number elected shall agree ; and whose duty it shall be to enquire whether the constitution has been preserved inviolate ? And whether the legislative and executive branches of government have performed their duty as guardians of the people, or assumed to themselves, or exercised other or greater powers than they are entitled to by the constitution : They are also to enquire whether the public taxes have been justly laid and collected in all parts of this commonwealth, in what manner the public monies have been disposed of, and whether the laws have been duly executed. For these purposes they shall have power to send for persons, papers, and records ; they shall have authority to pass public censures, to order impeachments, and to recommend to the legislature the repealing such laws as appear to them to have been enacted contrary to the principles of the constitution : These

power

powers they shall continue to have, for and during the space of one year from the day of their election, and no longer : The said council of censors shall also have power to call a convention, to meet within two years after their sitting, if there appear to them an absolute necessity of amending any article of the constitution which may be defective, explaining such as may be thought not clearly expressed, and of adding such as are necessary for the preservation of the rights and happiness of the people : But the articles to be amended, and the amendments proposed, and such articles as are proposed to be added or abolished, shall be promulgated at least six months before the day appointed for the election of such convention, for the previous consideration of the people, that they may have an opportunity of instructing their delegates on the subject.

D E L A W A R E.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS and Fundamental Rules of the Delaware State, formerly styled, The Government of the Counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware.

1. **T**HAT all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

2. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences and understandings ; and that no man ought, or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or maintain any ministry, contrary to or against his own free will and consent, and that no authority can or ought to be vested in, or assumed by any power whatever, that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner controul the right of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship.

3. That all persons professing the christian religion, ought for ever to enjoy equal rights and privileges in this state, unless under colour of religion, any man disturb the peace, the happiness, or safety of society.

4. That

4. That the people of this state have the sole, exclusive, and inherent right of governing and regulating the internal police of the same.

5. That persons entrusted with the legislative and executive powers are the trustees and servants of the public, and as such accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered by the legislative singly, or a treacherous combination of both, the people may, and of right ought to establish a new, or reform the old government.

6. That the right in the people to participate in the legislature is the foundation of liberty and of all free government, and for this end all elections ought to be free and frequent, and every freeman having sufficient evidence of a permanent common interest with, and attachment to the community, hath a right of suffrage.

7. That no power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws ought to be exercised unless by the legislature.

8. That for redress of grievances and for amending and strengthening of the laws, the legislature ought to be frequently convened.

9. That every man hath a right to petition the legislature for the redress of grievances, in a peaceable and orderly manner,

10. That every member of society hath a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and therefore is bound to contribute his proportion towards the expence of that protection, and yield his personal service when necessary, or an equivalent thereto; but no part of a man's property can be justly taken from him, or applied to public uses without his own consent, or that of his legal representatives: Nor can any man that is conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms in any case, be justly compelled thereto, if he will pay such equivalent.

11. That retrospective laws, punishing offences committed before the existence of such laws, are oppressive and unjust, and ought not to be made.

12. That every freeman, for every injury done him in his goods, lands, or person, by any other person, ought to have remedy by the course of the law of the land, and ought to have justice and right for the injury done to him,

freely

freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, according to the law of the land.

13. That trial by jury of facts where they arise, is one of the greatest securities of the lives, liberties, and estates of the people.

14. That in all prosecutions for criminal offences, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him, to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the accusers or witnesses, to examine evidence on oath in his favour, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty.

15. That no man in the courts of common law ought to be compelled to give evidence against himself.

16. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

17. That all warrants without oath to search suspected places, or to seize any person or his property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend all persons suspected, without naming or describing the place or any person in special, are illegal, and ought not to be granted.

18. That a well regulated militia is the proper, natural, and safe defence of a free government.

19. That standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without the consent of the legislature.

20. That in all cases and at all times the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and governed by the civil power.

21. That no soldier ought to be quartered in any house in time of peace, without the consent of the owner; and in time of war in such manner only as the legislature shall direct.

22. That the independency and uprightness of judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people.

23. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved,

The CONSTITUTION, or System of Government, agreed and resolved upon by the Representatives in full CONVENTION of the Delaware State, formerly styled, The Government of the Counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex, upon Delaware; *the said Representatives being chosen by the Freemen of the said State for that express Purpose.*

1. **T**HE government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Suffex, upon Delaware, shall hereafter in all public and other writings be called, *The Delaware State.*

2. The legislature shall be formed of two distinct branches: They shall meet once or oftener in every year, and shall be called, *The General Assembly of Delaware.*

3. One of the branches of the legislature shall be called, *The House of Assembly*, and shall consist of seven representatives to be chosen for each county annually, or such persons as are freeholders of the same.

4. The other branch shall be called, *The Council*, and consist of nine members; three to be chosen for each county at the time of the first election of the assembly, who shall be freeholders of the county for which they are chosen, and be upwards of twenty-five years of age. At the end of one year after the general election, the counsellor who had the smallest number of votes in each county shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied by the freemen of each county choosing the same or another person at a new election in manner aforesaid. At the end of two years after the first general election, the counsellor who stood second in number of votes in each county shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied by a new election in manner aforesaid. And at the end of three years from the first general election, the counsellor who had the greatest number of votes in each county shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied by a new election in manner aforesaid. And this rotation of a counsellor being displaced at the end of three years in each county, and his office supplied by a new choice shall be continued afterwards in due order annually forever, whereby, after the first general election, a counsellor will remain in trust for three years from the time of

of his being elected, and a counsellor will be displaced, and the same or another chosen in each county at every election.

5. The right of suffrage in the election of members for both houses shall remain as exercised by law at present; and each house shall choose its own speaker, appoint its own officers, judge of the qualifications and elections of its own members, settle its own rules of proceeding, and direct writs of election for supplying intermediate vacancies. They may also severally expel any of their own members for misbehaviour, but not a second time in the same sessions for the same offence, if re-elected; and they shall have all other powers necessary for the legislature of a free and independent state.

6. All money-bills for the support of government shall originate in the house of assembly, and may be altered, amended or rejected by the legislative council. All other bills and ordinances may take rise in the house of assembly or legislative council and may be altered, amended or rejected by either.

7. A president or chief magistrate shall be chosen by joint ballot of both houses, to be taken in the house of assembly, and the box examined by the speakers of each house in the presence of the other members, and in case the numbers for the two highest in votes should be equal, then the speaker of the council shall have an additional casting voice, and the appointment of the person who has the majority of votes shall be entered at large on the minutes and journals of each house, and a copy thereof on parchment, certified and signed by the speakers respectively, and sealed with the great seal of the state, which they are hereby authorized to affix, shall be delivered to the person so chosen president, who shall continue in that office three years, and until the sitting of the next general assembly and no longer, nor be eligible until the expiration of three years after he shall have been out of that office. An adequate but moderate salary shall be settled on him during his continuance in office. He may draw for such sums of money as shall be appropriated by the general assembly, and be accountable to them for the same; he may, by and with the advice of the privy council, lay embargoes or prohibit the exportation of any commodity for any time not exceeding thirty days, in

the recess of the general assembly ; he shall have the power of granting pardons or reprieves. except where the protection shall be carried on by the house of assembly, or the law shall otherwise direct, in which cases no pardon or reprieve shall be granted but by a resolve of the house of assembly ; and may exercise all the other executive powers of government, limited and restrained as by this constitution is mentioned, and according to the laws of the state. And on his death, inability, or absence from the state, the speaker of the legislative council for the time being shall be vice-president, and in case of his death, inability, or absence from the state, the speaker of the house of assembly shall have the powers of a president, until a new nomination is made by the general assembly,

8. A privy-council consisting of four members shall be chosen by ballot, two by the legislative council and two by the house of assembly : Provided, that no regular officer of the army or navy in the service and pay of the continent, or of this, or of any other state shall be eligible. And a member of the legislative council or of the house of assembly being chosen of the privy-council, and accepting thereof, shall thereby lose his seat. Three members shall be a quorum, and their advice and proceedings shall be entered on record, and signed by the members present, (to any part of which any member may enter his dissent) to be laid before the general assembly, when called for by them. Two members shall be removed by ballot, one by the legislative council, & one by the house of assembly, at the end of two years, & those who remain the next year after, who shall severally be ineligible for the next three years. These vacancies, as well as those occasioned by death or incapacity, shall be supplied by new elections in the same manner. And this rotation of a privy-counsellor shall be continued afterwards in due order annually for ever. The president may by summons convene the privy-council at any time when the public exigencies may require, and at such place as he shall think most convenient, when and where they are to attend accordingly.

9. The president with the advice and consent of the privy-council, may embody the militia, and act as Captain-general and commander in chief of them, and the other military force of this state, under the laws of the same.

10. Either house of the general assembly may adjourn themselves respectively. The president shall not prorogue, adjourn, or dissolve the general assembly, but he may, with the advice of the privy-council, or on the application of a majority of either house, call them before the time to which they shall stand adjourned; and the two houses shall always sit at the same time and place, for which purpose immediately after every adjournment, the speaker of the house of assembly shall give notice to the speaker of the other house of the time to which the house of assembly stands adjourned.

11. The delegates for Delaware to the Congress of the United States of America, shall be chosen annually, or superseded in the mean time, by joint ballot of both houses in the general assembly.

12. The president and general assembly shall by joint ballot appoint three justices of the supreme court for the state, one of whom shall be chief-justice, and a judge of admiralty, and also four justices of the courts of common pleas and orphans courts for each county, one of whom in each court shall be styled *Chief Justice* (and in case of division on the ballot, the president shall have an additional casting voice) to be commissioned by the president under the great seal, who shall continue in office during good behaviour; and during the time the justices of the said supreme court and courts of common pleas remain in office, they shall hold none other except in the militia; any one of the justices of either of said courts shall have power in case of the non-coming of his brethren, to open and adjourn the court. An adequate, fixed, but moderate salary shall be settled on them during their continuance in office. The president and privy-council shall appoint the secretary, the attorney-general, registers of the probate of wills, and granting letters of administration, registers in chancery, clerks of the courts of common pleas and orphan courts, and clerks of the peace, who shall be commissioned as aforesaid, and remain in office during five years, if they behave themselves well; during which time the said registers in chancery and clerks shall not be justices of either of the said courts of which they are officers, but they shall have authority to sign all writs by them issued, and take recognizance of bail. The justices of the peace shall be nominated by the house of assembly, that is to say, They shall

name

name twenty-four persons for each county, of whom the president, with the approbation of the privy-council, shall appoint twelve, who shall be commissioned as aforesaid, and continue in office during seven years, if they behave themselves well, and in case of vacancies, or if the legislature shall think proper to increase the number, they shall be nominated and appointed in like manner. The members of the legislative and privy-councils shall be justices of the peace for the whole state, during their continuance in trust; and the justices of the courts of common pleas shall be conservators of the peace in their respective counties.

13. The justices of the courts of common pleas and orphan courts shall have the power of holding inferior courts of chancery as heretofore, unless the legislature shall otherwise direct.

14. The clerks of the supreme court shall be appointed by the chief justice thereof, and the recorders of deeds by the justices of the courts of common pleas for each county severally, and commissioned by the president under the great seal, and continue in office five years, if they behave themselves well.

15. The sheriffs and coroners of the respective counties shall be chosen annually as heretofore; any person having served three years as sheriff, shall be intelligible for three years after; and the president and privy-council shall have the appointment of such of the two candidates returned for the said offices of sheriff and coroner, as they shall think best qualified, in the same manner as the Governor heretofore enjoyed this power.

16. The general assembly by joint ballot shall appoint the generals and field officers, and all other officers in the army or navy of this state. And the president may appoint during pleasure, until otherwise directed by the legislature, all necessary civil officers not herein before mentioned.

17. There shall be an appeal from the supreme court of Delaware in matters of law and equity, to a court of seven persons, to consist of the president for the time being, who shall preside therein, and six others, to be appointed, three by the legislative council, and three by the house of assembly, who shall continue in office during good behaviour, and be commissioned by the president under the great seal; which court shall be styled, *The Court of Appeals*, and have

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all the authority and powers heretofore given by law in the last resort to the King in council, under the old government; The secretary shall be the clerk of this court, and vacancies therein occasioned by death or incapacity, shall be supplied by new elections in manner aforesaid.

18. The justices of the supreme court and courts of common pleas, the members of the privy council, the secretary, the trustees of the loan office, and clerks of the courts of common pleas, during their continuance in office, and all persons concerned in any army or navy contracts, shall be ineligible to either house of assembly; and any member of either house accepting of any other of the offices herein before mentioned (excepting the office of a justice of the peace) shall have his seat thereby vacated, and a new election shall be ordered.

19. The legislative council and assembly shall have the power of making the great seal of this state, which shall be kept by the president, or in his absence by the vice-president, to be used by them as occasion may require. It shall be called, *The Great Seal of the Delaware State*, and shall be affixed to all laws and commissions.

20. Commissions shall run in the name of *The Delaware State*, and bear test by the president. Writs shall run in the same manner, and bear test in the name of the chief justice, or justice first named in the commissions for the several courts, and be sealed with the public seals of such courts. Indictments shall conclude, *Against the peace and dignity of the State*.

21. In case of vacancy of the offices above directed to be filled by the president and general assembly, the president and privy council, may appoint others in their stead, until there shall be a new election.

22. Every person, who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust, before taking his seat, or entering upon the execution of his office, shall take the following oath, or affirmation if conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, *to wit*:

"I, A. B. will bear true allegiance to the Delaware state, submit to its constitution and laws, and do no act wittingly whereby the freedom thereof may be prejudiced."

And also make and subscribe the following declaration, *to wit*.

"I, A. B.

" I, A. B. do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore ; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."

And all officers shall also take an oath of office.

23. The president when he is out of office, and within eighteen months after, and all others, offending against the state, either by mal-administration, corruption, or other means, by which the safety of this commonwealth may be endangered, within eighteen months after the offence committed, shall be impeachable by the house of assembly before the legislative council : Such impeachment to be prosecuted by the attorney-general, or such other person or persons as the house of assembly may appoint, according to the laws of the land. If found guilty, he or they shall be either for ever disabled to hold any office under government, or removed from office *pro tempore*, or subjected to such pains and penalties as the laws shall direct. And all officers shall be removed on conviction of misbehaviour at common law, or on impeachment, or upon the address of the general assembly.

24. All acts of assembly, in force in this state on the fifteenth day of May last (and not hereby altered, or contrary to the resolutions of Congress, or the late house of assembly of this state,) shall so continue until altered or repealed by the legislature of this state, unless where they are temporary, in which case they shall expire at the times respectively limited for their duration.

25. The common law of England, as well so much of the statute law as have been heretofore adopted in practice in this state, shall remain in force, unless they shall be altered by a future law of the legislature ; such parts only excepted as are repugnant to the rights and privileges contained in this constitution and the declaration of rights, &c. agreed to by this convention.

26. No person hereafter imported into this state from Africa ought to be held in slavery under any pretence whatever, and no negro, indian, or mulatto slave, ought to be brought into this state for sale from any part of the world.

27. The first election for the general assembly of this state

ate shall be held on the twenty-first day of October next, at the court houses in the several counties, in the manner heretofore used in the election of assembly, except as to choice of inspectors and assessors, where assessors have not been chosen on the sixteenth day of September instant, which shall be made on the morning of the day of election, by the electors, inhabitants of the respective hundreds in each county. At which time the sheriffs and coroners for the said counties respectively are to be elected: And the present sheriffs of the counties of Newcastle and Kent, may be re-chosen to that office, until the first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, and the present sheriff for the county of Sussex may be re-chosen to that office until the first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, provided the freemen think proper to re-elect them at every general election; and the present sheriffs and coroners respectively shall continue to exercise their offices as heretofore, until the sheriffs and coroners to be elected on the said twenty-first day of October shall be commissioned and sworn into office. The members of the legislative council and assembly shall meet for transacting the business of the state on the twenty-eighth day of October next, and continue in office until the first day of October which will be in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven; on which day, and on the first day of October in each year forever after, the legislative council; assembly, sheriffs, and coroners, shall be chosen by ballot in manner directed by the several laws of this state, for regulating elections of members of assembly, and sheriffs and coroners; and the general assembly shall meet on the twentieth day of the same month, for transacting the business of the state; and if any of the said first and twentieth days of October should be Sunday, then, and in such case, the elections should be held and the general assembly meet the next day following.

28. To prevent any violence or force being used at the said elections, no person shall come armed to any of them; and no muster of the militia shall be made on that day, nor shall any battalion or company give in their votes immediately succeeding each other, if any other voter who offers to vote objects thereto; nor shall any battalion or company in the pay of the continent, or of this or any other state,

be suffered to remain at the time and place of holding the said elections, nor within one mile of the said places respectively, for twenty-four hours before the opening said elections, nor within twenty-four hours after the same are closed, so as in any manner to impede the freely and conveniently carrying on the said election: Provided always, that every elector may be in a peaceable and orderly manner give in his vote on the said day of election.

29. There shall be no establishment of any one religious sect in this state in preference to another; and no clergyman or preacher of the gospel of any denomination shall be capable of holding any civil office in this state, or of being a member of either of the branches of the legislature while they continue in the exercise of the pastoral function.

30. No article of the declaration of rights and fundamental rules of this state, agreed to by this convention, nor the first, second, fifth, (except that part thereof that relates to the right of suffrage) twenty-six and twenty-nine articles of this constitution, ought ever to be violated on any pretence whatever. No other part of this constitution shall be altered, changed or diminished, without the consent of five parts in seven of the assembly, and seven members of the legislative council.

Friday, September 10, 1776.

M A R Y L A N D.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS and the CONSTITUTION and FORM of GOVERNMENT agreed to by the Delegates of Maryland, in free and full CONVENTION assembled.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS, &c.

THE parliament of Great-Britain, by a declaratory act, having assumed a right to make laws to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever, and in pursuance to such claim endeavoured by force of arms to subjugate the united colonies

to an unconditional submission to their will and power, and having at length constrained them to declare themselves independent states, and to assume government under the authority of the people. Therefore, we, the delegates of Maryland, in free and full convention assembled, taking into our most serious consideration the best means of establishing a good constitution in this state, for the sure foundation and more permanent security thereof, declare.

1. That all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

2. That the people of this state ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.

3. That the inhabitants of Maryland are entitled to the common law of England, and the trial by jury, according to the course of that law, and to the benefit of such of the English statutes, as existed at the time of their first emigration, and which by experience have been found applicable to their local and other circumstances, and of such others as have been since made in England, or Great-Britain, and have been introduced, used, and practised, by the courts of law or equity; and also to all acts of assembly in force on the first of June seventeen hundred and seventy-four, except such as may have since expired, or have been, or may be altered by acts of convention, or this declaration of rights, subject nevertheless to the revision of, and amendment or repeal by, the legislature of this state; and the inhabitants of Maryland are also entitled to all property derived to them from or under the charter granted by his majesty Charles I. to Cæcilius Calvert, baron of Baltimore.

4. That all persons invested with the legislative or executive powers of government are the trustees of the public, and as such accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought, to reform the old or establish a new government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

5. That the right of the people to participate in the legislature

lature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free government; for this purpose, elections ought to be free and frequent, and every man having property in, a common interest with, and attachment to the community, ought to have a right of suffrage.

6. That the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of government, ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

7. That no power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, unless by, or derived from the legislature, ought to be exercised or allowed.

8. That freedom of speech and debates, or proceedings in the legislature, ought not to be impeached in any other court or judicature.

9. That a place for the meeting of the legislature ought to be fixed, the most convenient to the members thereof, and to the depository of public records, and the legislature ought not to be convened or held at any other place, but from evident necessity.

10. That for redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the legislature ought to be frequently convened.

11. That every man hath a right to petition the legislature for the redress of grievances, in a peaceable and orderly manner.

12. That no aid, charge, tax, fee or fees, ought to be set, rated, or levied, under any pretence, without consent of the legislature.

13. That the levying taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive, and ought to be abolished; paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of government, but every person in the state ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes for the support of government, according to his actual worth in real or personal property within the state; yet fines, duties, or taxes, may properly and justly be imposed or laid with a political view for the good government, and benefit of the community.

14. That sanguinary laws ought to be avoided, as far as is consistent with the safety of the state; and no law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made in any case, or at any time hereafter.

15. That retrospective laws, punishing facts committed before

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before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust, and incompatible with liberty, wherefore no *ex post facto* law ought to be made.

16. That no law to attain particular persons of treason or felony ought to be made in any case, or any time hereafter.

17. That every freeman for any injury done him in his person or property, ought to have remedy by the course of the law of the land, and ought to have justice and right; freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, according to the law of the land.

18. That the trial by jury of facts where they arise, is one of the greatest securities of the lives, liberties, and estates of the people.

19. That in all criminal prosecutions, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him, to have a copy of the indictment or charge in due time (if required) to prepare for his defence, to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have process for his witnesses, to examine the witnesses for and against him on oath, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty.

20. That no man ought to be compelled to give evidence against himself in a common court of law, or in any other court, but in such cases as have been usually practised in this state, or may hereafter be directed by the legislature.

21. That no freeman ought to be taken or imprisoned, or diseised of his freehold, liberties, or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.

22. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted by the courts of law.

23. That all warrants without oath or affirmation, to search suspected places, or to seize any person or property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend suspected persons, without naming or describing the place, or the person in special, are illegal, and ought not to be granted.

24. That there ought to be no forfeiture of any part of the estate of any person for any crime, except murder, or treason

treason against the state, and then only on conviction and attainder.

25. That a well regulated militia is the proper and natural defence of a free government.

26. That standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without the consent of the legislature.

27. That in all cases and at all times the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and controul of the civil power.

28. That no soldier ought to be quartered in any house in time of peace, without the consent of the owner ; and in time of war in such manner only as the legislature shall direct.

29. That no person, except regular soldiers, mariners, and marines in the service of this state, or militia when in actual service, ought in any case to be subject to, or punished by, martial law.

30. That the independency and uprightness of judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people ; wherefore the chancellor and judges ought to hold commissions during good behaviour, and the said chancellor and judges shall be removed for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law, and may be removed by the Governor upon the address of the general assembly, provided that two thirds of all the members of each house concur in such address. That salaries liberal but not profuse ought to be secured to the chancellor and the judges during the continuance of their commissions, in such manner and at such times as the legislature shall hereafter direct, upon consideration of the circumstances of this state. No chancellor or judge ought to hold any other office, civil or military, or receive fees or perquisites of any kind.

31. That a long continuance in the first executive departments of power or trust is dangerous to liberty, a rotation therefore in these departments is one of the best securities of permanent freedom.

32. That no person ought to hold at the same time more than one office of profit, nor ought any person in public trust to receive any present from any foreign prince or state,

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33. That as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to him, all persons professing the christian religion are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty; wherefore no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate, on account of his religious persuasion or profession, or for his religious practice, unless under colour of religion, any man shall disturb the good order, peace or safety of the state, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others in their natural, civil, or religious rights; nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain, or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain any particular place of worship, or any particular ministry; yet the legislature may in their discretion lay a general and equal tax for the support of the christian religion: leaving to each individual the power of appointing the payment over of the money collected from him, to the support of any particular place of worship or minister, or for the benefit of the poor of his own denomination, or the poor in general for any particular county; but the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property now belonging to the church of England, ought to remain to the church of England for ever. And all acts of assembly lately passed for collecting monies for building or repairing particular churches or chapels of ease, shall continue in force and be executed, unless the legislature shall by act supersede or repeal the same; but no county court shall assess any quantity of tobacco or sum of money hereafter, on the application of any vestry-men or church-wardens; and every incumbent of the church of England, who hath remained in his parish, and performed his duty, shall be entitled to receive the provision and support established by the act, entitled, "An act for the support of the clergy of the church of England in this province," till November court of this present year, to be held for the county in which his parish shall lie, or partly lie, or for such time as he hath remained in his parish and performed his duty.

34. That every gift, sale, or devise of lands to any minister, public teacher or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination, or to, or for the support, use, or benefit of, or in trust for, any minister,
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public teacher, or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods or chattels to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the seller or donor, or to or for such support, use or benefit; and also every devise of goods or chattels to, or for the support, use, or benefit of any minister, public teacher, or preacher of the gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination, without the leave of the legislature, shall be void; except always any sale, gift, lease or devise of any quantity of land not exceeding two acres, for a church, meeting, or other house of worship, and for a burying ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed, or used only for such purpose; or such sale, gift, lease, or devise, shall be void.

35. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this state, and such oath of office as shall be directed by this convention, or the legislature of this state, and a declaration of a belief in the christian religion.

36. That the manner of administering an oath to any person, ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination, of which such person is one, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being. And that the people called Quakers, those called Dunkers, and those called Menonists, holding it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, ought to be allowed to make their solemn affirmation in the manner that Quakers have been heretofore allowed to affirm, and to be of the same avail as an oath in all such cases as the affirmation of Quakers hath been allowed and accepted within this state, instead of an oath. And further, on such affirmation, warrants to search for stolen goods, or for the apprehension or commitment of offenders, ought to be granted, or security for the peace awarded, and Quakers, Dunkers, or Menonists, ought also, on their solemn affirmation as aforesaid, to be admitted as witnesses in all criminal cases not capital.

37. That the city of Annapolis ought to have all its rights, privileges and benefits, agreeable to its charter, and the acts of assembly confirming and regulating the same, subject nevertheless

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nevertheless to such alterations as may be made by this convention or any future legislature.

38. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved.

39. That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free government, and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered.

40. That no title of nobility or hereditary honours ought to be granted in this state.

41. That the subsisting resolves of this and the several conventions held for this colony, ought to be in force as laws, unless altered by this convention or the legislature of this state.

42. That this declaration of rights, or the form of government to be established by this convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed, or abolished by the legislature of this state, but in such manner as this convention shall prescribe and direct.

This declaration of rights was assented to and passed in convention of the delegates of the freemen of Maryland, begun and held at Annapolis the 14th day of August, *A. D.* 1776.

By order of the convention,

MAT. TILGHMAN, *President.*

The **CONSTITUTION** *or* **FORM of GOVERNMENT,** &c.

1. **T**HAT the legislature consist of two distinct branches, a senate, and house of delegates, which shall be styled, *The General Assembly of Maryland.*

2. That the house of delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: All freemen above twenty-one years of age, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county in which they offer to vote, and residing therein; and all freemen having property in this state above the value of thirty pounds current money, and having resided in the county in which they offer to vote, one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage in the election of delegates for such county; and all freemen so qualified shall, on the first Monday of October, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year

year thereafter, assemble in the counties in which they are respectively qualified to vote, at the court-house in the said counties, or at such other place as the legislature shall direct, and when assembled they shall proceed to elect, *viva voce*, four delegates for their respective counties, of the most wise, sensible, and discreet of the people, residents in the county where they are to be chosen one whole year next preceding the election, above twenty-one years of age, and having in the state real or personal property above the value of five hundred pounds current money, and upon the final casting of the polls, the four persons who shall appear to have the greatest number of legal votes, shall be declared and returned duly elected for their respective counties.

3. That the sheriff of each county, or in case of sickness, his deputy (summoning two justices of the county, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace) shall be judges of the election, and may adjourn from day to day, if necessary, till the same be finished, so that the whole election shall be concluded in four days; and shall make his return thereof, under his hand, to the chancellor of the state for the time being.

4. That all persons, qualified by the charter of the city of Annapolis to vote for burgesses, shall on the same first Monday of October seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year for ever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two delegates, qualified agreeable to the said charter; that the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the said city, or any three of them, be judges of the election, appoint the place in the said city for holding the same, and may adjourn from day to day as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid; but the inhabitants of the said city shall not be entitled to vote for delegates for Anne-Arundel county, unless they have a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county, distinct from the city.

5. That all persons, inhabitants of Baltimore town, and having the same qualifications as electors in the county, shall, on the same first Monday in October, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year for ever thereafter, at such place in the said town as the judges shall appoint, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two delegates, qualified as aforesaid; but if the said inhabitants

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inhabitants of the town shall so decrease, as that the number of persons having a right of suffrage therein, shall have been for the space of seven years successively less than one half the number of voters in some one county in this state, such town thenceforward cease to send two delegates or representatives to the house of delegates, until the said town shall have one half of the number of voters in some one county in this state.

6. That the commissioners of the said town, or any three or more of them, for the time being shall be judges of the said election, and may adjourn as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid; but the inhabitants of the said town shall not be entitled to vote for, or be elected delegates for Baltimore county; neither shall the inhabitants of Baltimore county, out of the limits of Baltimore town, be entitled to vote for, or be elected delegates for the said town.

7. That on refusal, death, disqualification, resignation, or removal out of this state, of any delegate, or on his becoming governor, or member of the council, a warrant of election shall issue by the speaker, for the election of another in his place, of which ten days notice at least, excluding the day of notice and the day of election, shall be given.

8. That not less than a majority of delegates, with their speaker (to be chosen by them by ballot) constitute an house for the transaction of any business, other than that of adjourning.

9. That the house of delegates shall judge of the elections and qualifications of delegates.

10. That the house of delegates may originate all money bills, propose bills for the senate, or receive those offered by that body, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments; that they may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances, and offences, as the grand inquest of this state, and may commit any person for any crime to the public jail, there to remain till he be discharged by due course of law; they may expel any member for a great misdemeanor, but not a second time for the same cause; they may examine and pass all accounts of the state, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the revenue, or appoint auditors to state and adjust the same; they may

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call for all public or official papers and records, and send for persons, whom they may judge necessary, in the course of their inquiries, concerning affairs relating to the public interest, and may direct all office bonds (which shall be made payable to the state) to be sued for any breach of duty.

11. That the senate may be at full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment in passing laws, and that they may not be compelled by the house of delegates, either to reject a money bill which the emergency of affairs may require, or to assent to some other act of legislation, in their conscience and judgment injurious to the public welfare; the house of delegates shall not on any occasion, or under any pretence, annex to, or blend with a money bill, any matter, clause, or thing, not immediately relating to, and necessary for the imposing, assessing, levying or applying the taxes or supplies, to be raised for the support of government, or the current expences of the state; and to prevent altercation about such bills, it is declared, that no bill imposing duties or customs for the mere regulation of commerce, or inflicting fines for the reformation of morals, or to enforce the execution of the laws, by which an incidental revenue may arise, shall be accounted a money bill; but every bill assessing, levying, or applying taxes or supplies for the support of government, or the current expences of the state, or appropriating money in the treasury, shall be deemed a money bill.

12. That the house of delegates may punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a contempt in their view, by any disorderly or riotous behaviour, or by threats to, or abuse of their members, or by any obstruction to their proceedings; they may also punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a breach of privilege, by arresting on civil process, or by assaulting any of their members, during their sitting, or on their way to, or return from the house of delegates, or by any assault of, or obstruction to their officers, in the execution of any order or process, or by assaulting or obstructing any witness, or any other person, attending on, or on their way to, or from the house, or by rescuing any person committed by the house; and the senate may exercise the same power, in similar cases.

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for the eastern shore) and the commissioners of the loan office may be appointed by the house of delegates during their pleasure, and in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the state of any of the said commissioners or treasurers, in the recess of the general assembly, the Governor, with the advice of the council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the next general assembly.

14. That the senate be chosen in the following manner : All persons, qualified as aforesaid to vote for county delegates, shall, on the first day of September, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year for ever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two persons for their respective counties, qualified as aforesaid, to be elected county delegates, to be electors of the senate ; and the sheriff of each county, or in case of sickness, his deputy (summoning two justices of the county, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace) shall hold and be judges of the said election, and make return thereof as aforesaid. And all persons qualified as aforesaid, to vote for delegates for the city of Annapolis and Baltimore town, shall on the same first Monday of September 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year for ever thereafter elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, one person for the said city and town respectively, qualified as aforesaid, to be elected a delegate for the said city and town respectively ; the said election to be held in the same manner as the election of delegates for the said city and town, the right to elect the said elector with respect to Baltimore town to continue as long as the right to elect delegates for the said town.

15. That the said electors of the senate meet at the city of Annapolis, or such other place as shall be appointed for convening the legislature, on the third Monday in September 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year for ever thereafter, & they, or any twenty-four of them so met, shall proceed to elect, by ballot, either out of their own body, or the people at large, fifteen senators (nine of whom to be residents on the western, and six to be residents on the eastern shore) men of the most wisdom, experience and virtue, above twenty-five years of age, residents of the state above three whole years next preceding the election, and having real

real and personal property above the value of one thousand pounds current money.

16. That the senators shall be balloted for, at one and the same time, and out of the gentlemen residents of the western shore, who shall be proposed as senators, the nine who shall, on striking the ballots, appear to have the greatest numbers in their favour, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and out of the gentlemen, residents of the eastern shore, who shall be proposed as senators, the six who shall, on striking the ballots, appear to have the greatest number in their favour, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and if two or more, on the same shore, shall have an equal number of ballots in their favour, by which the choice shall not be determined on the first ballot, then the electors shall again ballot before they separate, in which they shall be confined to the persons who on the first ballot shall have had an equal number; and they who shall have the greatest number in their favour on the second ballot, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and if the whole number should not thus be made up, because of an equal number on the second ballot still being in favour of two or more persons, then the election shall be determined by lot, between those who have equal numbers; which proceedings of the electors shall be certified under their hands, and returned to the chancellor for the time being.

17. That the electors of senators shall judge of the qualifications and elections of members of their body, and on a contested election shall admit to a seat, as an elector, such qualified person as shall appear to them to have the greatest number of legal votes in his favour.

18. That the electors immediately on their meeting, and before they proceed to the election of senators, take such oath of support and fidelity to this state, as this convention or the legislature shall direct, and also an oath, "to elect, without favour, affection, partiality, or prejudice, such persons for senators as they, in their judgment and conscience, believe best qualified for the office."

19. That in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of this state, of any senator, or on his becoming a Governor, or a member of the council, the senate shall immediately thereupon, or at their next meeting

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ing thereafter, elect by ballot, in the same manner as the electors are above directed to chuse senators, another person in his place for the residue of the said term of five years.

20. That not less than a majority of the senate, with their president (to be chosen by them by ballot) shall constitute an house for the transacting any business, other than that of adjourning.

21. That the senate shall judge of the elections and qualifications of senators.

22. That the senate may originate any other, except money bills, to which their assent or dissent only shall be given, and may receive any other bills from the house of delegates, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments.

23. That the general assembly meet annually, on the first Monday of November, and if necessary oftner.

24. That each house shall appoint its own officers, and settle its own rules of proceeding.

25. That a person of wisdom, experience and virtue, shall be chosen Governor, on the second Monday of November, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven and on the second Monday in every year for ever thereafter, by the joint ballot of both houses, to be taken in each house respectively, deposited in a conference room; the boxes to be examined by a joint committee of both houses, and the numbers severally reported, that the appointment may be entered; which mode of taking the joint ballot of both houses shall be adopted in all cases. But if two or more shall have an equal number of ballots in their favour, by which the choice shall not be determined on the first ballot, then a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be confined to the persons who on the first ballot shall have had an equal number; and if the ballots should again be equal, between two or more persons, then the election of the Governor shall be determined by lot, between those who have equal numbers; and if the person chosen Governor shall die, resign, remove out of the state, or refuse to act (sitting the general assembly) the senate and house of delegates shall immediately thereupon proceed to a new choice in manner aforesaid.

26. That the senators and delegates, on the second Tuesday of November, 1777, and annually on the second Tuesday of November forever thereafter, elected by joint ballot, in the same manner as senators are directed to be chosen, five

of the most sensible, discreet, and experienced men, above twenty five years of age, residents in the state above three years next proceeding the election, and having therein a freehold of lands and tenements, above the value of one thousand pounds current money, to be the council to the Governor, whose proceedings shall be always entered on record, to any part whereof any member may enter his dissent, and their advice if so required by the Governor, or any member of the council, shall be given in writing, and signed by the members giving the same respectively: which proceedings of the council shall be laid before the senate, or house of delegates, when called for by them, or either of them. The council may appoint their own clerk, who shall take such oath of support and fidelity to this state as this convention or the legislature shall direct, and of secrecy, in such matters as he shall be directed by the board to keep secret.

27. That the delegates to Congress from this state shall be chosen annually, or superceded in the mean time by the joint ballot of both houses of assembly, and that there be a rotation in such manner that at least two of the number be annually changed, and no person shall be capable of being a delegate to Congress for more than three in any term of six years; and no person who holds any office of profit in the gift of Congress shall be eligible to sit in Congress, but if appointed to any such office, his seat shall be thereby vacated: That no person, unless above twenty-one years of age, and a resident in the state more than five years next preceding the election, and having real and personal estate in this state above the value of one thousand pounds current money, shall be eligible to sit in Congress:

28. That the senators and delegates, immediately on their annual meeting, and before they proceed to any business, and every person hereafter elected a senator or delegate, before he acts as such, shall take an oath of support and fidelity to this state as aforesaid; and before the election of a Governor, or members of the council, shall take an oath, "to elect without favour, affection, partiality or prejudice, such person as Governor, or member of the council, as they in their judgment and conscience believe best qualified for the office."

29. That the senate and delegates may adjourn themselves respectively: But if the two houses should not agree on the

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same time, but adjourn to different days then shall the Governor appoint and notify one of those days or some day between, and the assembly shall then meet and be held accordingly; and he shall, if necessary, by advice of the council, call them before the time to which they shall in any manner be adjourned, on giving not less than ten days notice thereof, but the Governor shall not adjourn the assembly otherwise than as aforesaid, nor prorogue or dissolve it at any time.

30. That no person, unless above twenty-five years of age, a resident in this state above five years next preceding the election; and having in the state real and personal property above the value of five thousand pounds current money, one thousand pounds whereof, at least to be freehold estate, shall be eligible as Governor.

31. That the Governor shall not continue in that office longer than three years successively, nor be eligible as Governor until the expiration of four years after he shall have been out of that office.

32. That upon the death, resignation, or removal out of this state of the Governor, the first named of the council, for the time being, shall act as Governor; and qualify in the same manner, and shall immediately call a meeting of the general assembly, giving not less than fourteen days notice of the meeting, at which meeting a Governor shall be appointed, in manner aforesaid, for the residue of the year.

33. That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the council, may embody the militia, and when embodied shall alone have the direction thereof, and shall also have the direction of all the regular land and sea forces under the laws of this state; but he shall not command in person, unless advised thereto by the council, and then only so long as they shall approve thereof; and may alone exercise all other the executive powers of government, where the concurrence of the council is not required, according to the laws of this state, and grant reprieves or pardons for any crime, except in such cases where the law shall otherwise direct, and may, during the recess of the general assembly, lay embargoes to prevent the departure of any shipping, or the exportation of any commodities, for any time not exceeding thirty days in any one year, summoning the gene-

ral assembly to meet within the time of the continuance of such embargo, and may also order and compel any vessel to ride quarantine, if such vessel, or the port from which she may have come, shall, on strong grounds, be suspected to be infected with the plague; but the Governor shall not, under any pretence, exercise any power or prerogative by virtue of any law, statute, or custom, of England or Great-Britain.

34. That the members of the council, or any three or more of them, when convened, shall constitute a board for the transacting of business; that the Governor for the time being shall preside in the council, and be intitled to a vote on all questions in which the council shall be divided in opinion; and in the absence of the Governor the first named of the council shall preside, and as such shall also vote in all cases where the other members disagree in their opinion.

35. That in cases of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the state, of any person chosen a member of the council, the members thereof, immediately thereupon or at their next meeting thereafter, shall elect by ballot, another person qualified as aforesaid, in his place, for the residue of the year.

36. That the council shall have power to make the great seal of this state, which shall be kept by the chancellor for the time being, and affixed to all laws, commissions, grants, and other public testimonials, as has been heretofore practised in this state.

37. That no senator, delegate of assembly, or member of the council, if he shall qualify as such, shall hold or execute any office of profit, or receive the profits of any office exercised by any other person, during the time for which he shall be elected; nor shall any Governor be capable of holding any other office of profit in this state, while he acts as such, and no person holding a place of profit, or receiving any part of the profits thereof, or receiving the profits or any part of the profits arising on any agency for the supply of cloathing or provisions for the army or navy, or holding any office under the united states, or any of them, or a minister or preacher of the gospel of any denomination, or any person employed in the regular land service, or marine, of this

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or the united states, shall have a seat in the general assembly, or the council of this state.

38. That every Governor, senator, delegate to congress, or assembly, and member of the council, before he acts as such, shall take an oath, "That he will not receive, directly or indirectly at any time, any part of the profits of any office held by any other person during his acting in his office of governor, senator, delegate to congress, or assembly, or member of the council, or the profits, or any part of the profits, arising on any agency, for the supply of cloathing or provisions for the army or navy."

39. That if any senator, delegate to Congress or assembly, or member of the council, shall hold or execute any office of profit, or receive directly or indirectly, at any time, the profits, or any part of the profits, of any office exercised by any other person, during his acting as senator, delegate to Congress or assembly, or member of the council, his seat, on conviction in a court of law, by the oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for wilful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this state for ever, or disqualified for ever from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may judge.

40. That the chancellor, all judges, the attorney-general, clerks of the general court, the clerks of the county courts, the registers of the land-office, and the registers of wills, shall hold their commissions during good behaviour, removeable only for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law.

41. That there be a register of wills appointed for each county, who shall be commissioned by the Governor, on the joint recommendation of the senate and house of delegates, and that upon the death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the county, by any register of wills, in the recess of the general assembly, the Governor, with the advice of the council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the general assembly.

42. That sheriffs shall be elected in each county, by ballot, every third year, that is to say, two persons for the office of sheriff for each county, the one of whom having the majority of votes, or if both have an equal number, either

of them, at the discretion of the Governor, to be commissioned by the Governor for the said office, and having served for three years, such person shall be ineligible for the four years next succeeding, bond with security to be taken every year as usual, and no sheriff shall be qualified to act before the same is given. In case of death, refusal, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the county, before the expiration of the three years, the other person, chosen as aforesaid, shall be commissioned by the Governor to execute the said office for the residue of the said three years, the said person giving bond with security as aforesaid; and in case of his death, refusal, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the county, before the expiration of the said three years, the Governor, with the advice of the council, may nominate and commission a fit and proper person to execute the said office for the residue of the said three years, the said person giving bond and security as aforesaid; the election shall be held at the same time and place appointed for the election of delegates, and the justices there summoned to attend for the preservation of the peace, shall be judges thereof, and of the qualification of candidates, who shall appoint a clerk to take the ballots: All freemen above the age of twenty-one years, having a freehold of fifty acres of land, in the county in which they offer to ballot, and residing therein, and all freemen above the age of twenty one years, and having property in the state above the value of thirty pounds current money, and having resided in the county in which they offer to ballot, one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage; no person to be eligible to the office of sheriff for a county, but an inhabitant of the said county, above the age of twenty-one years, and having real and personal property in the state above the value of one thousand pounds current money: The justices aforesaid shall examine the ballots, and the two candidates properly qualified, having in each county the majority of legal ballots, shall be declared duly elected for the office of sheriff for such county, and returned to the governor and council, with a certificate of the number of ballots for each of them,

43. That every person who shall offer to vote for delegates, or for the election of the senate, or for the sheriff, shall (if required by any three persons qualified to vote) before

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be admitted to poll, take such oath or affirmation of support and fidelity to this state, as this convention or the legislature shall direct.

44. That a justice of the peace may be eligible as a senator, delegate, or member of the council, and may continue to act as a justice of the peace.

45. That no field officer of the militia be eligible as a senator, delegate, or member of the council.

46. That all civil officers hereafter to be appointed for the several counties of this state, shall have been residents of the county respectively for which they shall be appointed, six months next before their appointment, and shall continue residents of their county respectively, during their continuance in office.

47. That the judges of the general court, and justices of the county courts, may appoint the clerks of their respective courts, and in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the state, or from their respective shores, of the clerks of the general court, or either of them, in the vacation of the said court; and in case of the refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the county of any of the said county clerks in the vacation of the county court of which he is clerk, the Governor, with the advice of the council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office respectively, to hold the same until the meeting of the next general court, or county court, as the case may be.

48. That the Governor for the time being, with the advice and consent of the council, may appoint the chancellor, and all judges and justices, the attorney-general, naval-officers, officers in the regular land and sea service, officers of the militia, registers of the land-office, surveyors, and all other civil officers of government (assessors, constables, and overseers of the roads only excepted) and may also suspend or remove any civil officer who has not a commission during good behaviour, and may suspend any militia officer for one month, and may also suspend or remove any regular officer in the land or sea service; and the Governor may remove or suspend any militia officer in pursuance of the judgment of a court martial.

49. That all civil officers of the appointment of the Governor

vernor and council, who do not hold commissions during good behaviour, shall be appointed annually in the third week of November, but if any of them shall be re-appointed they may continue to act without any new commission or qualification; and every officer, though not re-appointed, shall continue to act until the person who shall be appointed and commissioned in his stead shall be qualified.

50. That the Governor, every member of the council, and every judge and justice, before they act as such, shall respectively take an oath, "That he will not through favour, affection, or partiality, vote for any person to office, and that he will vote for such person as in his judgment and conscience he believes most fit and best qualified for the office, and that he has not made, nor will make, any promise or engagement to give his vote or interest in favour of any person."

51. That there be two registers of the land office, one upon the western, and one upon the eastern shore; that short extracts of the grants and certificates of the land on the western and eastern shores respectively, be made in separate books, at the public expence, and deposited, in the offices of the said registers in such manner as shall hereafter be provided by the general assembly.

52. That every chancellor, judge, register of wills, commissioner of the loan-office, attorney-general, sheriff, treasurer, naval-officer, register of the land-office, register of the chancery court, and every clerk of the common law courts, surveyor, and auditor of the public accounts, before he acts as such, shall take an oath, "That he will not directly or indirectly receive any fee or reward, for doing his office of _____ but what is or shall be allowed by law, nor will directly or indirectly receive the profits or any part of the profits of any office held by any other person, and that he does not hold the same office in trust or for the benefit of any other person."

53. That if any Governor, chancellor, judge, register of wills, attorney-general, register of the land office, register of the chancery court, or any clerk of the common law courts, treasurer, naval officer, sheriff, surveyor, or auditor of public accounts, shall receive directly or indirectly at any time, the profits or any part of the profits of any office, held by any other person during his acting in the office to which he is ap-

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pointed; his election, his appointment, and commission, or conviction in a court of law, by oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for wilful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this state forever, or disqualified forever, from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may adjudge.

54. That if any person shall give any bribe, present, or reward, or any promise, or any security for the payment or delivery of any money, or any other thing, to obtain or procure a vote, to be Governor, senator, delegate to congress, or assembly, member of the council, or judge, or to be appointed to any of the said offices, or to any office of profit or trust now created or hereafter to be created in this state, the person giving, and the person receiving the same, on conviction in a court of law, shall be forever disqualified to hold any office of trust or profit in this state.

55. That every person appointed to any office of profit or trust shall, before he enters on the execution thereof, take the following oath, to wit, "I, A. B. do swear, that I do not hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of Great-Britain, and that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to the state of Maryland," and shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the christian religion.

56. That there be a court of appeals, composed of persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeal from the general court, court of chancery, and court of admiralty: That one person of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed chancellor: That three persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed judges of the court now called the provincial court; and that the same court be hereafter called and known by the name of *The General Court*; which court shall sit on the western and eastern shores for transacting and determining the business of the respective shores, at such times and places as the future legislature of this state shall direct and appoint.

57. That the stile of all laws run thus, *Be it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland*: That all public commissions and grants run thus, *The state of Maryland, &c.* and shall be signed by the Governor, and attested by the chancellor with the seal of the state annexed, except military commissions, which shall not be attested by the chancellor, or have

have the seal of the state annexed : That all writs shall run in the same stile, and be tested, sealed, and signed as usual : That all indictments shall conclude, *Against the peace, government, and dignity of the state.*

58. That all penalties and forfeitures, heretofore going to the King or proprietary, shall go to the state, save only such as the general assembly may abolish or otherwise provide for.

59. That this form of government, and the declaration of rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed, or abolished, unless a bill to alter, change, or abolish the same, shall pass the general assembly, and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the general assembly, after a new election of delegates, in the first session after such new election ; provided that nothing in this form of government which relates to the eastern shore particularly, shall at any time hereafter be altered unless for the alteration and confirmation thereof at least two thirds of all the members of each branch of the general assembly shall concur.

60. That every bill passed by the general assembly, when engrossed, shall be presented by the speaker of the house of delegates, in the senate, to the Governor for the time being, who shall sign the same, and thereto affix the great seal, in the presents of the members of both houses : every law shall be recorded in the general court office of the western shore, and in due time printed, published, and certified under the great seal, to the several county courts, in the same manner as hath been heretofore used in this state.

This form of government was assented to and passed in convention of the delegates of the freemen of Maryland, begun and held at the city of Annapolis, the 14th of August, A. D. 1776.

By order of the Convention,

M. TILGHMAN, *President*

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V I R G I N I A.

The CONSTITUTION or FORM of GOVERNMENT, agreed to and resolved upon by the Delegates and Representatives of the several Counties and Corporations of Virginia; in a GENERAL CONVENTION held at Williamsburgh, on the 6th of May and continued by Adjournments to the 5th of July, 1776.

WE, the delegates and representatives of the good people of Virginia, do declare the future form of government of Virginia to be as followeth:

The legislative, executive, and judiciary department, shall be separate and distinct, so that neither exercise the powers properly belonging to the other; nor shall any person exercise the powers of more than one of them at the same time, except that the justices of the county courts shall be eligible to either houses of assembly.

The legislative shall be formed of two distinct branches, who, together, shall be a complete legislature. They shall meet once, or oftner, in every year, and shall be called, *The General Assembly of Virginia*. One of these shall be called, *The House of Delegates*; and consist of two representatives to be chosen for each county, and for the district of West-Augusta, annually of such men as actually reside in, and are freeholders of the same, or duly qualified according to law, and also of one delegate or representative to be chosen annually for the city of Williamsburgh, and one for the borough of Norfolk, and a representative for each of such other cities and boroughs as may hereafter be allowed particular representation by the legislature; but when any city or borough shall so decrease, as that the number of persons having right of suffrage therein, shall have been for the space of seven years successively, less than half the number of voters in some one county in Virginia, such city or borough thenceforward shall cease to send a delegate or representative to the assembly.

The other shall be called, *The Senate*, and consist of twenty-four members, of whom thirteen shall constitute a house to proceed on business, for whose election the different coun-

ties shall be divided into twenty-four districts, and each county of the respective district, at the time of the election of its delegates, shall vote for one senator, who is actually a resident and freeholder within the district, or duly qualified according to law, and is upwards of twenty-five years of age; and the sheriffs of each county, within five days at farthest, after the last county election in the district, shall meet at some convenient place and form the poll so taken in their respective counties, return as a senator the man who shall have the greatest number of votes in the whole district. To keep up this assembly by rotation, the districts shall be equally divided into four classes and numbered by lot. At the end of one year after the general election, the six members elected by the first division shall be displaced, and the vacancies thereby occasioned supplied from such class or division, by new election in the manner aforesaid. This rotation shall be applied to each division according to its number, and continued in due order annually.

The right of suffrage in the election of members for both houses, shall remain as exercised at present, and each house shall choose its own speaker, appoint its own officers, settle its own rules of proceeding, and direct writs of election for the supplying intermediate vacancies.

All laws shall originate in the house of delegates, to be approved of or rejected by the senate, or to be amended with consent of the house of delegates; except money bills, which in no instance shall be altered by the senate, but wholly approved or rejected.

A Governor, or chief magistrate shall be chosen annually, by joint ballot of both houses, to be taken in each house respectively, deposited in the conference room, the boxes examined jointly by a committee of each house, and the numbers severally reported to them, that the appointments may be entered (which shall be the mode of taking the joint ballot of both houses in all cases) who shall not continue in that office longer than three years successively, nor be eligible until the expiration of four years after he shall have been out of that office. An adequate, but moderate salary shall be settled on him during his continuance in office; and he shall, with the advice of a council of state, exercise the executive powers of government, according to the laws of this commonwealth; and shall not, under any pretence,

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exercise any power or prerogative by virtue of any law, statute or custom of England : But he shall, with the advice of the council of state, have the power of granting reprieve or pardons, except where the prosecution shall be carried on by the house of delegates, or the law shall have been otherwise particularly direct ; in which cases no reprieve or pardon shall be granted, but by the house of delegates.

Either house of the general assembly may adjourn themselves respectively. The Governor shall not prorogue or adjourn the assembly during their sitting, nor dissolve them at any time ; but he shall, if necessary, either by advice of the council of state, or an application of a majority of the house of delegates, call them before the time to which they shall stand prorogued or adjourned.

A privy council, or council of state, consisting of eight members, shall be chosen by joint ballot of both houses of assembly, either from their own members or the people at large, to assist in the administration of government. They shall annually choose, out of their own members, a president, who, in case of death, inability, or absence of the Governor from the government, shall act as Lieutenant-governor. Four members shall be sufficient to act, and their advice and proceedings shall be entered on record, and signed by the members present (to any part whereof any member may enter his dissent) to be laid before the general assembly, when called for by them. This council may appoint their own clerk, who shall have a salary settled by law, and take an oath of secrecy in such matters as he shall be directed by the board to conceal. A sum of money appropriated to that purpose, shall be divided annually among the members in proportion to their attendance ; and they shall be incapable, during their continuance in office, of sitting in either house of assembly. Two members shall be removed by joint ballot of both houses of assembly, at the end of every three years, and be ineligible for the three next years. These vacancies, as well as those occasioned by death or incapacity, shall be supplied by new elections in the same manner.

The delegates for Virginia to the Continental Congress shall be chosen annually, or superseded in the mean time by joint ballot of both houses of assembly.

The present militia officers shall be continued, and vacancies

vacancies supplied by the appointment of the Governor, with the advice of the privy council, on recommendations from the respective county courts; but the Governor and council shall have a power of suspending any officer, and ordering a court-martial on complaint of misbehaviour or inability, or to supply vacancies of officers happening when in actual service.

The Governor may embody the militia, with the advice of the privy council; and, when embodied, shall alone have the direction of the militia, under the laws of the country.

The two houses of assembly shall, by joint ballot, appoint judges of the supreme court of appeals, and general court, judges in chancery, judges of admiralty, secretary, and the attorney-general, to be commissioned by the Governor, and continue in office during good behaviour. In case of death, incapacity, or resignation, the Governor, with the advice of the privy council, shall appoint persons to succeed in office, to be approved or displaced by both houses. These officers shall have fixed and adequate salaries, and, together with all others holding lucrative offices, and all ministers of the gospel of every denomination, be incapable of being elected members of either house of assembly, or the privy council.

The Governor, with the advice of the privy council, shall appoint justices of the peace for the counties; and in case of vacancies, or a necessity of increasing the number hereafter, such appointments to be made upon the recommendation of the respective county courts. The present acting secretary in Virginia, and clerks of all the county courts, shall continue in office. In case of vacancies, either by death, incapacity, or resignation, a secretary shall be appointed as before directed, and the clerks by the respective courts. The present and future clerks shall hold their offices during good behaviour, to be judged of and determined in the general court. The sheriffs and coroners shall be nominated by the respective courts, approved by the Governor with the advice of the privy council, and commissioned by the Governor. The justices shall appoint constables; and all fees of the aforesaid officers be regulated by law.

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sending against the state, either by mal-administration, corruption, or other means, by which the safety of the state may be endangered, shall be impeachable by the house of delegates. Such impeachment to be prosecuted by the attorney-general, or such other person or persons as the house may appoint, in the general court, according to the laws of the land. If found guilty, he or they shall be either forever disabled to hold any office under government, or be removed from such office *pro tempore*; or subjected to such pains or penalties as the law shall direct.

If all or any of the judges of the general court should, on good grounds (to be judged of by the house of delegates) be accused of any of the crimes or offences above-mentioned, such house of delegates may in like manner impeach the judge or judges so accused, to be prosecuted in the court of appeals; and he or they, if found guilty, shall be punished in the same manner as is prescribed in the preceding clause.

Commissions and grants shall run, *In the name of the commonwealth of Virginia*, and bear test by the Governor, with the seal of the commonwealth annexed. Writs shall run in the same manner, and bear test by the clerks of the several courts. Indictments shall conclude, *Against the peace, and dignity of the commonwealth*.

A treasurer shall be appointed annually, by joint ballot of both houses.

All escheats, penalties, and forfeitures, heretofore going to the King, shall go to the commonwealth, save only such as the legislature may abolish, or otherwise provide for.

The territories contained within the charters erecting the colonies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, are hereby ceded, released, and forever confirmed to the people of these colonies respectively, with all the rights of property, jurisdiction and government, and all other rights whatsoever, which might at any time heretofore have been claimed by Virginia, except the free navigation and use of the rivers Potomac and Potomoke, with the property of the Virginia shores and strands bordering on either of the said rivers, and all improvements which have been or shall be made thereon. The western and northern extent of Virginia shall in all other respects stand as fixed by the charter of King James I. in the year one thousand six hundred and nine,

nine, and by the public treaty of peace between the court of Britain and France, in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty three; unless by act of this legislature, one or more governments be established westward of the Allegheny mountains. And no purchases of lands shall be made of the Indian natives but on behalf of the public, by authority of the general assembly.

N O R T H - C A R O L I N A.

The CONSTITUTION or FORM of GOVERNMENT, agreed to & resolved upon, by the Representatives of the Free-men of the State of North-Carolina, elected and chosen for that particular Purpose, in CONGRESS assembled, at Halifax, Dec. 18, 1776.

A DECLARATION of RIGHTS, &c.

1. **T**HAT all political power is vested in, and derived from, the people only.
2. That the people of this state ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.
3. That no man, or set of men are intitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services.
4. That the legislative, executive, and supreme judicial powers of government, ought to be for ever separate and distinct from each other.
5. That all powers of suspending laws, or the execution of laws by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and ought not to be exercised.
6. That elections of members, to serve as representatives in general assembly, ought to be free.
7. That in all criminal prosecutions every man has a right to be informed of the accusation against him, and to confront

the accusers and witnesses other testimony, and shall not be compelled to give evidence against himself.

8. That no freeman shall be put to answer any criminal charge but by indictment, presentment, or impeachment.

9. That no freeman shall be convicted of any crime, but by the unanimous verdict of a jury of good and lawful men, in open court as heretofore used.

10. That excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

11. That general warrants whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places, without evidence of the fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, whose offences are not particularly described and supported by evidence, are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be granted.

12. That no freeman ought to be taken, imprisoned, or disseised of his freehold, liberties, or privileges, or outlawed or exiled or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the law of the land.

13. That every freeman restrained of his liberty, is intitled to a remedy, to enquire into the lawfulness thereof, and to remove the same if unlawful, and that such remedy ought not to be denied or delayed.

14. That in all controversies at law respecting property, the ancient mode of trial by jury is one of the best securities of the rights of the people and ought to remain sacred and inviolable.

15. That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and therefore ought never to be restrained.

16. That the people of this state ought not to be taxed, or made subject to the payment of any impost or duty, without the consent of themselves, or their representatives in general assembly freely given.

17. That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of the state; and as standing armies in time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by the civil power.

18. That the people have a right to assemble together, to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives,

tives, and to apply to the legislature for redress of grievances.

19. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God, according to the dictates of their own conscience.

20. That for redress of grievances, and for amending and strengthening the laws, elections ought to be often held.

21. That a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty.

22. That no hereditary emoluments, privileges or honours, ought to be granted or conferred in this state,

23. That perpetuities and monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free state, and ought not to be allowed.

24. That retrospective laws, punishing facts committed before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust, and incompatible with liberty, wherefore no *ex post facto* law ought to be made.

25. The property of the soil in a free government being one of the essential rights of the collective body of the people, it is necessary, in order to avoid future disputes, that the limits of the state should be ascertained with precision; and as the former temporary line between North and South-Carolina was confirmed and extended by commissioners, appointed by the legislatures of the two states, agreeable to the order of the late King George II. in council, that line, and that only, should be esteemed the southern boundary of this state, that is to say, beginning on the sea side at a cedar stake, at or near the mouth of little river (being the southern extremity of Brunswick county), and running from thence a north-west course through the boundary house, which stands in thirty three degrees fifty six minutes; to thirty five degrees north latitude, and from thence a west course, so far as is mentioned in the charter of King Charles II. to the late proprietors, of Carolina: Therefore all the territory, seas, waters, and harbours, with their appurtenances, lying between the line above described, and the southern line of the state of Virginia, which begins on the sea shore, in thirty-six degrees thirty minutes North latitude, and from thence runs West, agreeable to the said charter of King Charles, are the right and property of the people of this state, to be held by them in sovereignty; any partial line, without the consent

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consent of the legislature of this state, at any time thereafter directed, or laid out in any wise notwithstanding. Provided always, That this declaration of right shall not prejudice any nation or nations of indians, from enjoying such hunting grounds as may have been, or hereafter shall be secured to them, by any former or future legislature of this state. And provided also, That it shall not be construed so as to prevent the establishment of one or more governments westward of this state, by consent of the legislature. And provided further, That nothing herein contained shall effect the titles or possessions of individuals, holding or claiming under the laws heretofore in force, or grants heretofore made by the late King George III. or his predecessors, or the late Lords proprietors, or any of them.

The CONSTITUTION or FORM of GOVERNMENT, &c.

WHEREAS allegiance and protection are in their nature reciprocal, and the one should of right be refused when the other is withdrawn; and whereas George the Third, King of Great-Britain, and late sovereign of the British American Colonies, hath not only withdrawn from them his protection, but by an act of the British legislature declared the inhabitants of these states out of the protection of the British crown, and all their property found upon the high seas, liable to be seized and confiscated to the uses mentioned in the said act; and the said George the Third, has also sent fleets and armies to prosecute a cruel war against them, for the purpose of reducing the inhabitants of the said colonies to a state of abject slavery; in consequence whereof, all government under the said King within the said colonies hath ceased, and a total dissolution of government in many of them hath taken place. And whereas the Continental Congress, having considered the premises, and other previous violations of the rights of the good people of America, have therefore declared, that the thirteen united colonies are of right wholly absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, or any other foreign jurisdiction whatsoever; and that the said colonies now are, and for ever shall be, free and independent states; wherefore in our present state, in order to prevent anarchy and confusion, it becomes necessary that government should be established in this state;

therefore we, the representatives of the freemen of North-Carolina, chosen and assembled in Congress, for the express purpose of framing a constitution, under the authority of the people, most conducive to their happiness and prosperity, do declare, that a government for this state shall be established in manner and form following, *to wit*.

1. That the legislative authority shall be vested in two distinct branches, both dependant on the people, *to wit*, a Senate, and House of Commons.

2. That the senate shall be composed of representatives annually chosen by ballot, one of each county in the state.

3. That the house of commons shall be composed of representatives annually chosen by ballot, two for each county, and one for each of the towns of Edentown, Newbern, Wilmington, Salisbury, Hillsborough and Halifax.

4. That the senate and house of commons, assembled for the purpose of legislation, shall be denominated, *The General Assembly*.

5. That each member of the senate shall have usually resided in the county in which he is chosen, for one year preceding his election, and for the same time shall have possessed, and continue to possess, in the county which he represents, not less than three hundred acres of land in fee.

6. That each member of the house of commons shall have usually resided in the county in which he is chosen, for one year immediately preceding his election, and for six months shall have possessed, and continue to possess, in the county which he represents, not less than one hundred acres of land in fee, or for the term of his own life.

7. That all freemen of the age of twenty-one years who have been inhabitants of any county within the state, twelve months immediately preceding the day of any election, and possessed of a freehold within the same county of fifty acres of land for six months next before, and at the day of election, shall be entitled to vote for a member of the senate.

8. That all freemen of the age of twenty-one years, who have been inhabitants of any county within the state twelve months immediately preceding the day of any election, and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for members of the house of commons, for the county in which he resides,

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this state, having a right of representation, and also all freemen who have been inhabitants of any such town twelve months next before, and at the day of election, and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for a member to represent such town in the house of commons. Provided always, That this section shall not entitle any inhabitant of such town to vote for members of the house of commons for the county in which he may reside, nor any freeholder in such county who resides without or beyond the limits of such town, to vote for a member for said town.

10. That the senate and house of commons when met, shall each have power to chuse a speaker, and other their officers, be judges of the qualifications and elections of their members; sit upon their own adjournments from day to day; and prepare bills to be passed into laws. The two houses shall direct writs of election for supplying intermediate vacancies, and shall also jointly, by ballot, adjourn themselves to any future day and place.

11. That all bills shall be read three times in each house before they pass into laws, and be signed by the speaker of both houses.

12. That every person who shall be chosen a member of the senate or house of commons, or appointed to any office or place of trust, before taking his seat, or entering upon the execution of his office, shall take an oath to the state, and all officers shall also take an oath of office.

13. That the general assembly shall, by joint ballot of both houses, appoint judges of the supreme courts of law and equity, judges of admiralty, and attorney-general, who shall be commissioned by the Governor, and hold their offices during good behaviour.

14. That the senate and house of commons shall have power to appoint the generals and field officers of the militia, and all officers of the regular army of this state.

15. That the senate and house of commons, jointly, at their first meeting after each annual election, shall by ballot elect a Governor for one year, who shall not be eligible to that office longer than three years in six successive years. That no person under thirty years of age, and who has not been a resident in this state above five years, and having in the state a freehold in lands and tenements above the

the value of one thousand pounds, shall be eligible as a Governor.

16. That the senate and house of commons, jointly, at their first meeting after each annual election, shall by ballot elect seven persons to be a council of state for one year, who shall advise the Governor in the execution of his office, and that four members shall be a quorum; their advice and proceeding shall be entered in a journal to be kept for that purpose only, and signed by the members present, to any part of which any member present may enter his dissent. And such journal shall be laid before the general assembly, when called for by them.

17. That there shall be a seal of this state, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require; and shall be called, *The Great Seal of the state of North-Carolina*, and be affixed to all grants and commissions.

18. The Governor for the time being, shall be Captain-general and Commander in Chief of the militia; and in the recess of the general assembly shall have power, by and with the advice of the council of state, to embody the militia for the public safety.

19. That the Governor for the time being shall have power to draw for, and apply such sums of money as shall be voted by the general assembly for the contingencies of government, and be accountable to them for the same. He also may, by and with the advice of the council of state, lay embargoes, or prohibit the exportation of any commodity for any term not exceeding thirty days at any one time in the recess of the general assembly; and shall have the power of granting pardons and reprieves, except where the prosecution shall be carried on by the general assembly, or the law shall otherwise direct; in which case he may, in the recess, grant a reprieve until the next sitting of the general assembly; and may exercise all the other executive powers of government, limited and restrained, as by this constitution is mentioned, and according to the laws of the state. And on his death, inability or absence from the state, the speaker of the senate for the time being; and in case of his death, inability, or absence from the state, the speaker of the house of commons shall exercise the powers of government, after such death, or during such absence or inability,

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of the Governor, or speaker of the senate, or until a new nomination is made by the general assembly.

20. That in every case where any officer, the right of whose appointment is by this constitution vested in the general assembly, shall, during their recess die, or his office by other means become vacant, the Governor shall have power with the advice of the council of state, to fill up such vacancy by granting a temporary commission, which shall expire at the end of the next session of the general assembly.

21. That the Governor, judges of the supreme court of law and equity, judges of admiralty, and attorney-general, shall have adequate salaries, during their continuance in office,

22. That the general assembly shall, by joint ballot of both houses, annually appoint a treasurer or treasurers for this state.

23. That the Governor, and other officers offending against the state, by violating any part of this constitution, mal-administration, or corruption, may be prosecuted on the impeachment of the general assembly, or presentment of the grand jury of any court of supreme jurisdiction in this state.

24. That the general assembly shall, by joint ballot of both houses, triennially appoint a secretary for this state.

25. That no persons, who heretofore have been, or hereafter may be receivers of public monies, shall have a seat in either house of general assembly, or be eligible to any office in this state, until such person shall have fully accounted for, and paid into the treasury, all sums for which they may be accountable and liable.

26. That no treasurer shall have a seat, either in senate, house of commons, or council of state, during his continuance in that office, or before he shall have finally settled his accounts with the public, for all the monies which may be in his hands, at the expiration of his office, belonging to the state, and hath paid the same into the hands of the succeeding treasurer.

27. That no officer in the regular army or navy, in the service and pay of the united states, of this or any other state, or any contractor or agent for supplying such army or navy with cloathing or provisions, shall have a seat either in the senate, house of commons, or council of state,

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or be eligible thereto; and any member of the senate, house of commons, or council of state, being appointed to, and accepting of such office, shall thereby vacate his seat.

28. That no member of the council of state shall have a seat either in the senate or house of commons.

29. That no judge of the supreme court of law or equity, or judge of admiralty, shall have a seat in the senate, house of commons, or council of state.

30. That no secretary of this state, attorney-general, or clerk of any court of record, shall have a seat in the senate, house of commons, or council of state.

31. That no clergyman or preacher of the gospel of any denomination shall be capable of being a member of either the senate, house of commons, or council of state, while he continues in the exercise of the pastoral function.

32. That no person who shall deny the being of God, or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testament, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the state, shall be capable of holding any office, or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this state.

33. That the justices of the peace within their respective counties in this state, shall in future be recommended to the Governor for the time being, by the representatives in general assembly, and the Governor shall commission them accordingly; and the justices, when so commissioned, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall not be removed from office by the general assembly, unless for misbehaviour, absence, or inability.

34. That there shall be no establishment of any one religious church or denomination in this state in preference to any other, neither shall any person, on any pretence whatsoever, be compelled to attend any place of worship contrary to his own faith or judgment, nor be obliged to pay for the purchase of any glebe, or the building of any house of worship, or for the maintenance of any minister or ministry, contrary to what he believes right, or has voluntarily and personally engaged to perform; but all persons shall be at liberty to exercise their own mode of worship. *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to exempt preachers of treasonable or seditious discourses from legal trial and punishment.

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35. That no person in the state shall hold more than one lucrative office at any one time. *Provided*, That no appointment in the militia, or the office of a justice of the peace, shall be considered as a lucrative office.

36. That all commissions and grants shall run in the name of the state of North-Carolina, and bear test, and be signed by the Governor. All writs shall run in the same manner, and bear test, and be signed by the clerks of the respective courts. Indictments shall conclude, *Against the peace and dignity of the state*,

37. That the delegates for this state to the continental Congress, while necessary, shall be chosen annually by the general assembly, by ballot, but may be superseded in the mean time in the same manner, and no person shall be elected to serve in that capacity for more than three years successively.

38. That there shall be a sheriff, coroner or coroners, and constables, in each county within this state.

39. That the person of a debtor, where there is not a strong presumption of fraud, shall not be continued in prison, after delivering up *bona fide*, all his estate, real and personal, for the use of his creditors, in such manner as shall be hereafter regulated by law: All prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or the presumption great.

40. That every foreigner who comes to settle in this state, having first taken an oath of allegiance to the same, may purchase, or by other just means acquire, hold, and transfer land, or other real estate; and after one year's residence, shall be deemed a free citizen.

41. That a school or schools shall be established by the legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct at low prices; & all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more universities.

42. That no purchase of lands shall be made of the Indian natives, but on behalf of the public, by authority of the general assembly.

43. That the future legislature of this state shall regulate entails in such a manner as to prevent perpetuities.

44. That the declaration of rights is hereby declared to be

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part of the constitution of this state, and ought never to be violated, on any pretence whatsoever.

45. That any member of either house of general assembly shall have liberty to dissent from, and protest against, any act or resolve which he may think injurious to the public, or any individual, and have the reasons of his dissent entered on the journals.

46. That neither house of the general assembly shall proceed upon public business, unless a majority of all the members of such house are actually present; and that upon a motion made and seconded, the yeas and nays upon any question shall be taken and entered on the journals; and that the journals of the proceedings of both houses of the general assembly shall be printed and made public, immediately after their adjournment.

This constitution is not intended to preclude the present Congress from making a temporary provision for the well ordering of this state, until the general assembly shall establish government agreeable to the mode herein before described.

RICHARD CASWELL, PRESIDENT.

December the eighteenth, one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, read the third time, and ratified in open Congress.

By Order.

JAMES GREEN, Jun. Secretary.

S O U T H - C A R O L I N A.

An ACT for establishing the CONSTITUTION of the State of South-Carolina, passed the 19th day of March, 1778.

WHEREAS the constitution or form of government agreed to and resolved upon by the freemen of this county, met in Congress the 26th day of March, 1776, was temporary only, and suited to the situation of their public affairs at that period, looking forward to an accommodation

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relation with Great-Britain, an event then desired : And whereas the united colonies of America have been since constituted independent states, and the political connexion heretofore subsisting between them and Great-Britain entirely dissolved, by the declaration of the honourable the continental Congress, dated the 4th day of July 1776, for the many great and weighty reasons therein particularly set forth ; it therefore becomes absolutely necessary to frame a constitution suitable to that great event : Be it therefore constituted and enacted, by his excellency Rawlins Loundes, Esq. president and Commander in Chief in and over the state of South-Carolina, by the honourable the legislative council and general assembly, and by the authority of the same, That the following articles agreed upon by the freemen of this state, now met in general assembly, be deemed and held the constitution and form of government of the said state, unless altered by the legislative authority thereof : which constitution or form of government shall immediately take place and be of force from the passing of this act, excepting such parts as are hereafter mentioned and specified.

1. That the stile of this county be hereafter, *The State of South-Carolina*,

2. That the legislative authority be vested in a general assembly, to consist of two distinct bodies, a senate and house of representatives ; but, that the legislature of this state, as established by the constitution or form of government, passed the 26th of March 1776, shall continue and be in full force, until the 29th day of November next ensuing.

3. That as soon as may be after the first meeting of the senate and house of representatives, and at every first meeting of the senate and house of representatives thereafter, to be elected by virtue of this constitution, they shall, jointly, in the house of representatives, choose by ballot, from among themselves or from the people at large, a Governor and Commander in Chief, a Lieutenant-governor, both to continue for two years, and a privy-council, all of the protestant religion ; and till such choice shall be made, the former president, or Governor and Commander in Chief, and vice-president, or Lieutenant-governor, as the case may be, and privy-council, shall continue to act as such.

4. That a member of the senate or house of representatives, being chosen and acting as Governor and Commander in Chief, or Lieutenant-governor shall vacate his seat, and another person shall be elected in his room.

5. That every person who shall be elected Governor and Commander in Chief of the state, or Lieutenant-governor, or a member of the privy-council, shall be qualified as followeth, that is to say, The Governor and Lieutenant-governor shall have been residents in this state for ten years, and the members of the privy-council five years, preceding their said election, and shall have in this state a settled plantation or freehold, in their and each of their own right, of the value of at least ten thousand pounds currency, clear of debt; and on being elected, they shall respectively take an oath of qualification in the house of representatives.

6. That no future Governor and Commander in Chief who shall serve for two years, shall be eligible to serve in the said office after the expiration of the said term, until the full end and term of four years.

7. That no person in this state shall hold the office of Governor thereof, or Lieutenant-governor, and any other office or commission, civil or military, (except in the militia) either in this or any other state; or under the authority of the Continental Congress, at one and the same time.

8. That in case of the impeachments of the Governor and Commander in Chief or his removal from office, death, resignation, or absence from the state, the Lieutenant-governor shall succeed to his office, and the privy-council shall chuse, out of their own body, a Lieutenant-governor of the state. And in case of the impeachment of the Lieutenant-governor, or his removal from office, death, resignation, or absence from the state, one of the privy-council, to be chosen by themselves, shall succeed to his office, until a nomination to those offices respectively, by the senate and house of representatives, for the remainder of the time for which the officer so impeached, removed from office, dying, resigning, or being absent, was appointed.

9. That the privy-council shall consist of the Lieutenant-governor for the time being, and eight other members, five of whom shall be a quorum, to be chosen as before directed, four to serve for two years, and four for one year,

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and at the expiration of one year, four others shall be chosen, in the room of the last four to serve for two years, and all future members of the privy-council shall thenceforward be elected to serve for two years, whereby there will be a new election every year for half of the privy-council, & a constant rotation established; but no member of the privy-council who shall serve for two years shall be eligible to serve therein after the expiration of the said term, until the full end & term of four years; Provided always, that no officer of the army or navy, in the service of the continent or this state, nor judge of any of the courts of law shall be eligible; nor shall the father, son or brother of the Governor for the time being, be elected in the privy-council during his administration. A member of the senate or house of representatives, being chosen of the privy-council, shall not thereby lose his seat in the senate or house of representatives, unless he be elected Lieutenant-governor, in which case he shall, & another person shall be chosen in his stead. The privy-council is to advise the Governor, and Commander in Chief, when required, but he shall not be bound to consult them unless directed by law. If a member of the privy-council shall die or depart the state, during the recess of the general assembly, the privy-council shall chuse another to act in his room, until a nomination by the senate and house of representatives shall take place. The clerk of the privy-council shall keep a regular journal of all their proceedings, in which shall be entered the yeas and nays, on every question, and the opinion, with the reason at large, of any member who desires it; which journal shall be laid before the legislature, when required by either house.

10. That in case of the absence from the seat of government, or sickness of the Governor and the Lieutenant-governor, any one of the privy-council may be empowered by the Governor, under his hand and seal, to act in his room; but such appointment shall not vacate his seat in the senate, house of representatives, or privy-council,

11. That the executive authority be vested in the Governor & Commander in Chief, in manner herein mentioned.

12. That each parish and district throughout this state, shall on the last Monday in November next, and the day following, and on the same days of every second year thereafter, elect, by ballot, one member of the senate; except

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the district of St. Philip and St. Michael's parishes, Charles-town, which shall elect two members, and except also the district between Broad and Saludy rivers, in three divisions, viz. the lower district, little river district, and upper or spartan district, each of which said divisions shall elect one member; and except the parishes of St. Mathew and Orange, which shall elect one member; and also except the parishes of Prince George and All Saints, which shall elect one member. And the election of senators for such parishes respectively, shall, until otherwise altered by the legislature, be at the parish of Prince George, for the said parish and the parish of All-Saints, and at the parish of St. Mathew for that parish and the parish of Orange; to meet on the first Monday in January then next, at the seat of government, unless the casualties of war or contagious disorders should render it unsafe to meet there; in which case the Governor and Commander in Chief for the time being, may, by proclamation, with the advice and consent of the privy-council, appoint a more secure and convenient place of meeting; and to continue for two years, from the said last Monday in November; and that no person shall be eligible to a seat in the said senate, unless he be of the Protestant religion, and hath attained the age of thirty years and hath been a resident in this state at least five years. Not less than thirteen members shall be a quorum to do business, but the president or any three members may adjourn from day to day. No person who resides in the parish or district for which he is elected, shall take his seat in the senate, unless he possesses a settled estate and freehold, in his own right, in the said parish or district, of the value of two thousand pounds currency at least, clear of debt; and no non-resident shall be eligible to a seat in the said senate, unless he is owner of a settled estate and freehold, in his own right, in the parish or district where he is elected, of the value of seven thousand pounds currency at least, also clear of debt.

13. That on the last Monday in November next, and the day following, and on the same days of every second year thereafter, members of the house of representatives shall be chosen, to meet on the first Monday in January then next, at the seat of government, unless the casualties of war or contagious disorders should render it unsafe to meet there,

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in which case the Governor and Commander in Chief for the time being, may by proclamation, with the advice and consent of the privy-council, appoint a more secure & convenient place of meeting; and to continue for two years from the said last Monday in November. Each parish and district within this state, shall send members to the general assembly in the following proportions, that is to say,

The parish of St. Philip and St. Michael, Charlestown, thirty members.

The parish of Christ-Church, six members.

The parish of St. John, in Berkley county, six members

The parish of St. Andrew, six members.

The parish of St. George, Dorchester, six members.

The parish of St. James, Goose-creek, six members.

The parish of St. Thomas and St. Dennis, six members.

The parish of St. Paul, six members.

The parish of St. Bartholomew, six members.

The parish of St. Helena, six members.

The parish of St. James, Santee, six members.

The parish of Prince George, Winyah, four members.

The parish of All Saints two members.

The parish of Prince Frederick, six members.

The parish of St. John, in Colleton county, six members

The parish of St. Peter, six members.

The parish of Prince William, six members.

The parish of St. Stephen, six members.

The district to the eastward of Wateree river, ten members.

The district of Ninety-Six, ten members.

The district of Saxe-Gotha, six members.

The district between Broad and Saludy rivers, in three divisions, *viz.*

The Lower district, four members.

The Little river district, four members.

The Upper or Spartan district, four members.

The district between Broad and Catawba rivers, ten members.

The district called the New Acquisition, ten members.

The parish of St. Matthew, three members.

The parish of Orange, three members.

The parish of St. David, six members.

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The district between Savanah river, and the North fork of Edisto, six members.

And the election of the said members shall be conducted as near as may be, agreeable to the directions of the present or any future election act or acts. And where there are no churches or churchwardens in a district or parish, the house of representatives, at some convenient time before their expiration, shall appoint places of election, and persons to receive votes and make returns. The qualification of electors shall be, that every free white man, and no other person, who acknowledges the being of a God, and believes in a future state of rewards and punishments, and who has attained to the age of one and twenty years, and hath been a resident and an inhabitant in this state for the space of one whole year, before the day appointed for the election he offers to give his vote at, and hath a freehold at least of fifty acres of land, or a town lot, and hath been legally seized and possessed of the same, at least six months previous to such election, or hath paid a tax the preceding year, or was taxable the present year, at least six months previous to the said election, in a sum equal to the tax on fifty acres of land to the support of this government, shall be deemed a person qualified to vote for, and shall be capable of electing a representative or representatives, to serve as a member or members in the senate, and house of representatives, for the parish or district where he actually is a resident, or in any other parish or district, in this state, where he hath the like freehold. Electors shall take an oath or affirmation of qualification, if required by the returning officer. No person shall be eligible to sit in the house of representatives, unless he be of the Protestant religion, and hath been a resident in this state for three years, previous to his election. The qualification of the elected, if residents in the parish or district for which they shall be returned, shall be the same as mentioned in the election act, and construed to mean clear of debt. But no non-resident shall be eligible to a seat in the house of representatives, unless he is owner of a settled estate and freehold, in his own right, of the value of three thousand and five hundred pounds currency at least, clear of debt, in the parish or district for which he is elected.

14. That if any parish or district neglects or refuses to elect members; or if the members chosen do not meet in

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general assembly of the general assembly shall make speaker, day.

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general assembly; those who do meet shall have the powers of the general assembly. No less than sixty-nine members shall make a house of representatives to do business; but the speaker, or any seven members may adjourn from day to day.

15. That at the expiration of seven years after the passing of this constitution, and at the end of every fourteen years thereafter, the representation of the whole state shall be proportioned in the most equal and just manner, according to the particular and comparative strength, and taxable property, of the different parts of the same; regard being always had to the number of white inhabitants, and such taxable property.

16. That all money-bills for the support of government, shall originate in the house of representatives, and shall not be altered or amended by the senate, but may be rejected by them: And that no money be drawn out of the public treasury, but by the legislative authority of the state. All other bills and ordinances may take rise in the senate or house of representatives, and be altered, amended, or rejected by either. Acts and ordinances having passed the general assembly, shall have the great seal affixed to them, by a joint committee of both houses, who shall wait upon the Governor to receive and return the seal; and shall then be signed by the president of the senate, and speaker of the house of representatives, in the senate house, and shall thenceforth have the force and validity of a law, and be lodged in the secretary's office. And the senate and house of representatives respectively, shall enjoy all other privileges which have at any time been claimed, or exercised by the commons house of assembly.

17. That neither the senate nor house of representatives shall have power to adjourn themselves for any longer time than three days, without the mutual consent of both. The Governor and Commander in Chief shall have no power to adjourn, prorogue, or dissolve them: But may, if necessary, by and with the advise and consent of the privy-council convene them, before the time to which they shall stand adjourned. And where a bill hath been rejected by either house, it shall not be brought in again that session, without leave of the house, and notice of six days being previously given.

18. That the senate and house of representatives shall each chuse their respective officers by ballot, without controul. And that, during a recess, the president of the senate, and speaker of the house of representatives, shall issue writs for filling up vacancies, occasioned by death in their respective houses, giving at least three weeks, and not more than thirty-five days previous notice, of the time appointed for the election.

19. That if any parish or district shall neglect to elect a member or members, on the day of election; or in case any person chosen a member of either house, shall refuse to qualify and take his seat as such, or die, or depart the state, the senate or house of representatives, as the case may be, shall appoint proper days for electing a member or members, in such cases respectively.

20. That if any member of the senate or house of representatives, shall accept any place of emolument, or any commission (except in the militia, or commission of the peace) and except as is excepted in the tenth article, he shall vacate his seat, and there shall thereupon be a new election; but he shall not be disqualified from serving, upon being re-elected, unless he is appointed secretary of the state, a commissioner of the treasury, an officer of the customs, register of mesne conveyances, a clerk of either of the courts of justice, sheriff, powder-receiver, clerk of the senate, house of representatives, or privy-council, surveyor-general, or commissary of military stores; which officers are hereby declared disqualified from being members either of the senate or house of representatives.

21. And whereas the ministers of the gospel are, by their profession, dedicated to the service of God, and the cure of souls, and ought not to be diverted from the great duties of their function; therefore, no minister of the gospel, or public preacher, of any religious persuasion, while he continues in the exercise of his pastoral function, and for two years after, shall be eligible either as Governor, Lieutenant-governor, a member of the senate, house of representatives, or privy-council in this state.

22. That the delegates to represent this state in the Congress of the united states, be chosen annually, by the senate and house of representatives, jointly by ballot, in the house of representatives. And nothing contained in this constitution,

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tution, shall be construed to extend to vacate the seat of any member, who is or may be a delegate from this state to Congress, as such.

23. That the form of impeaching all officers of the state, for mal and corrupt conduct in their respective offices, not amenable to any other jurisdiction, be vested in the house of representatives : But, that it shall always be necessary, that two-third parts of the members present do consent to, and agree in, such impeachment. That the senators and such of the judges of this state, as are not members of the house of representatives, be a court for the trial of impeachments, under such regulations as the legislature shall establish : And that, previous to the trial of every impeachment, the members of the said court shall respectively be sworn, truly and impartially to try and determine the charge in question, according to evidence. And no judgment of the said court, except judgment of acquittal, shall be valid, unless it shall be assented to by two-third parts of the members then present. And on every trial, as well on impeachments as others, the party accused shall be allowed counsel.

24. That the Lieutenant-governor of the state, and a majority of the privy-council, for the time being, shall, until otherwise altered by the legislature, exercise the powers of a court of chancery. And there shall be ordinaries appointed in the several districts in this state, to be chosen by the senate and house of representatives jointly, by ballot, in the house of representatives, who shall, within their respective districts, exercise the powers heretofore exercised by the ordinary : And until such appointment is made the present ordinary, in Charlestown, shall continue to exercise that office as heretofore.

25. That the jurisdiction of the court of admiralty be confined to maritime causes.

26. That justices of the peace shall be nominated by the senate and house of representatives, jointly, and commissioned by the Governor and Commander in Chief, during pleasure. They shall be entitled to receive the fees heretofore established by law ; and not acting in the magistracy, they shall not be entitled to the privileges allowed to them by law.

27. That all other judicial officers shall be chosen by ballot, jointly, by the senate and house of representatives, and
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except the judges of the court of chancery, commissioned by the Governor and Commander in Chief during goodbehaviour ; but shall be removed on address of the senate and house of representatives.

28. That the sheriffs, qualified as by law directed, shall be chosen in like manner, by the senate and house of representatives, when the Governor, Lieutenant-governor, and privy-council are chosen, and commissioned by the Governor and Commander in Chief for two years, and shall give security as required by law, before they enter on the execution of their office. No sheriff who shall have served for two years, shall be eligible to serve in the said office, after the expiration of the said term, until the full end and term of four years, but shall continue in office until such choice be made : Nor shall any person be eligible as sheriff, in any district, unless he shall have resided therein for two years previous to the election.

29. That two commissioners of the treasury, the secretary of the state, the registers of mesne conveyances in each district, attorney-general, surveyor-general, powder-receiver, collectors and comptrollers of the customs, and waiters, be chosen in like manner by the senate and house of representatives, jointly, by ballot, in the house of representatives, and commissioned by the Governor and Commander in Chief, for two years. That none of the said officers respectively, who shall have served for four years, shall be eligible to serve in the said offices, after the expiration of the said term, until the full end and term of four years, but shall continue in office until a new choice be made : Provided, that nothing herein contained, shall extend to the several persons appointed to the above offices respectively, under the late constitution. And that the present, and all future commissioners of the treasury, and powder-receivers, shall each give bond, with approved security, agreeable to law.

30. That all other officers in the army or navy of this state, of and above the rank of captain, shall be chosen by the senate and house of representatives, jointly, by ballot, in the house of representatives, and commissioned by the Governor and Commander in Chief ; and that all other officers in the army and navy of this state, shall be commissioned by the Governor and Commander in Chief.

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31. That in case of vacancy, in any of the offices above directed to be filled by the senate and house of representatives, the Governor and Commander in Chief, with the advice and consent of the privy-council, may appoint others in their stead, until there shall be an election by the senate and house of representatives to fill those vacancies, respectively.

32. That the Governor and Commander in Chief, with the advice and consent of the privy-council, may appoint, during pleasure, until otherwise directed by law, all other necessary officers, except such as are now by law directed to be otherwise chosen.

33. That the Governor and Commander in Chief, shall have no power to commence war, or conclude peace, or enter into any final treaty, without the consent of the senate and house of representatives.

34. That the resolutions of the late Congresses of this state, and all laws now of force here (and not hereby altered) shall so continue, until altered or repealed by the legislature of this state, unless where they are temporary, in which case they shall expire, at the times respectively limited for their duration.

35. That the Governor and Commander in Chief for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the privy-council, may lay embargoes, or prohibit the exportation of any commodity, for any time, not exceeding thirty days, in the recess of the general assembly.

36. That all persons who shall be chosen and appointed to any office, or to any place of trust, civil or military, before entering upon the execution of office, shall take the following oath :

“ I, A. B. do acknowledge the state of South-Carolina to be a free, independent, and sovereign state ; and that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain : And I do renounce, refuse, and abjure, any allegiance or obedience to him : And I do swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend the said state, against the said King George the Third, and his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants, and adherents, and will serve the said state in the office of

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with fidelity and honour, and according to the best of my skill and understanding. So help me God."

37. That adequate yearly salaries be allowed to the public officers of this state, and be fixed by law.

38. That all persons and religious societies, who acknowledge that there is one God, and a future state of rewards and punishments, and that God is to be publicly worshipped, shall be freely tolerated. The christian Protestant religion, shall be deemed, and is hereby constituted and declared to be the established religion of this state. That all denominations of christian Protestants in this state, demeaning themselves peaceably and faithfully, shall enjoy equal religious and civil privileges. To accomplish this desirable purpose, without injury to the religious property of those societies of christians, which are by law already incorporated, for the purpose of religious worship: and to put it fully into the power of every other society of christian Protestants, either already formed, or hereafter to be formed, to obtain the like incorporation, it is hereby constituted, appointed, and declared, That the respective societies of the church of England, that are already formed in this state, for the purposes of religious worship, shall still continue incorporate, and hold the religious property now in their possession. And that, whenever fifteen or more male persons, not under twenty-one years of age, professing the christian Protestant religion, and agreeing to unite themselves in a society, for the purposes of religious worship, they shall (on complying with the terms herein after mentioned) be, and be constituted a church, and be esteemed and regarded in law, as of the established religion of the state, and on a petition to the legislature, shall be entitled to be incorporated, and to enjoy equal privileges. That every society of christians, so formed, shall give themselves a name or denomination, by which they shall be called or known in law; and all that associate with them for the purposes of worship, shall be esteemed as belonging to the society so called: but that, previous to the establishment and incorporation of the respective societies of every denomination as aforesaid, and in order to entitle them thereto, each society so petitioning, shall have agreed to, and subscribed in a book, the following five articles, without which, no agreement or union of men, upon pretence of religion, shall entitle them to be incorporated,

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incorporated, and esteemed as a church of the established religion of this state :

First, That there is one eternal God, and a future state of rewards and punishments.

Second, That God is publicly to be worshipped.

Third, That the christian religion is the true religion.

Fourth, That the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, are of divine inspiration, and are the rule of faith and practice.

Fifth, That it is lawful, and the duty of every man, being thereunto called by those that govern, to bear witness to truth.

That every inhabitant of this state, when called to make an appeal to God, as a witness to the truth, shall be permitted to do it in that way which is most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience. And, that the people of this state may forever enjoy the right of electing their own pastors or clergy; and at the same time, that the state may have sufficient security for the due discharge of the pastoral office, by those who shall be admitted to be clergymen, no person shall officiate as minister of any established church, who shall not have been chosen by a majority of the society to which he shall minister, or by persons appointed by the said majority to chuse and procure a minister for them, nor until the minister so chosen and appointed, shall have made and subscribed the following declaration, over and above the aforesaid five articles, *viz.*

“ That he is determined, by God’s grace, out of the holy Scriptures, to instruct the people committed to his charge, and to teach nothing (as required of necessity to eternal salvation) but that which he shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved from the scripture; that he will use both public and private admonitions, as well to the sick as to the whole within his cure, as need shall require, and occasion shall be given; and that he will be diligent in prayers, and in reading of the holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same; that he will be diligent to frame and fashion his own self, and his family, according to the doctrine of Christ, and to make both himself and them, as much as in him lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ; that he will maintain and set forwards, as much as he can, quietness,

ness, peace, and love among all people, and especially among those that are or shall be committed to his charge.

No person shall disturb or molest any religious assembly, nor shall use any reproachful, reviling, or abusive language against any church; that being the certain way of disturbing the peace, and of hindering the conversion of any to the truth, by engaging them in quarrels and animosities to the hatred of the professors, and that profession which otherwise they might be brought to assent to. No person whatsoever, shall speak any thing in their religious assembly, irreverently or seditiously of the government of this state. No person shall, by law, be obliged to pay towards the maintenance and support of a religious worship that he does not freely join in, or has not voluntarily engaged to support: But the churches, chapels, parsonages, glebes and all other property, now belonging to any societies of the church of England, or any other religious societies, shall remain, and be secured to them forever. The poor shall be supported, and elections managed, in the accustomed manner, until laws shall be provided, to adjust those matters in the most equitable way.

39. That the whole state shall, as soon as proper laws can be passed for those purposes, be divided into districts and counties, and county courts established.

40. That the penal laws, as heretofore used shall be reformed, and punishments made, in some cases, less sanguinary, and, in general, more proportionate to the crime.

41. That no freeman of this state be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed; or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, or deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.

42. That the military be subordinate to the civil power of the state.

43. That the liberty of the press be inviolably preserved.

44. That no part of this constitution shall be altered without a notice of ninety days being previously given; nor shall any part of the same be changed, without the consent of a majority of the members of the senate and house of representatives.

45. That the senate and house of representatives, shall not

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It proceed to the election of a Governor or Lieutenant-governor, until there be a majority of both houses present.

In the Council-Chamber, the 19th Day of March, 1778.

Assented to,

RAWLINS LOWNDES.

JOSEPH RUTLEDGE, *Speaker*
of the *Legislative Council*,

THOMAS BEE, *Speaker*
of the *General Assembly*.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, the 19th Day of March, 1778.

Published by order of the House,

PETER TIMOTHY, C. G. A.

~~—————~~
G E O R G I A.

The CONSTITUTION of the State of Georgia, unanimously agreed to, in CONVENTION, the 5th of February, 1777.

WHEREAS the conduct of the legislature of Great-Britain for many years past, has been so oppressive on the people of America, that of late years, they have plainly declared, and asserted a right to raise taxes upon the people of America, and to make laws to bind them in all cases whatsoever, without their consent; which conduct being repugnant to the common rights of mankind hath obliged the Americans, as freemen to oppose such oppressive measures, and to assert the rights and privileges they are intitled to, by the laws of nature and reason; and accordingly it hath been done by the general consent of all the people of the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia,

Georgia, given by their representatives met together in general Congress in the city of Philadelphia.

And whereas it hath been recommended by the said Congress on the fifteenth of May last, to the respective assemblies and conventions of the united states, where no government, sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs, hath been hitherto established, to adopt such government, as may, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular and America in general.

And whereas the independence of the united states of America has been also declared, on the fourth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, by the said honourable Congress, and all political connection between them and the crown of Great-Britain, is in consequence thereof dissolved.

We therefore, the representatives of the people, from whom all power originates, and for whose benefit all government is intended, by virtue of the power delegated to us, do ordain and declare, and it is hereby ordained and declared, that the following rules and regulations be adopted for the future government of this state.

1. The legislative, executive, and judiciary departments shall be separate and distinct, so that neither exercise the powers properly belonging to the other.

2. The legislature of this state shall be composed of the representatives of the people, as is herein after pointed out: And the representatives shall be elected yearly, and every year, on the first Tuesday in December; and the representatives so elected, shall meet the first Tuesday in January following, at Savannah, or any other place or places, where the house of assembly for the time being shall direct.

On the first day of the meeting of the representatives so chosen, they shall proceed to the choice of a Governor, who shall be stiled *Honourable*; and of an executive council, by ballot out of their own body; viz. two from each county, except those counties which are not yet entitled to send ten members. One of each county shall always attend where the Governor resides, by monthly rotation, unless the members of each county agree for a longer or shorter period; this is not intended to exclude either member attending:

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The remaining number of representatives shall be called, *The House of Assembly*; and the majority of the members of the said house shall have power to proceed on business.

3. It shall be an unalterable rule, that the house of assembly shall expire and be at an end yearly and every year, on the day preceding the day of election, mentioned in the foregoing rule.

4. The representation shall be divided in the following manner: Ten members for each county, as is herein after directed, excepting the county of Liberty, which contains three parishes, and that shall be allowed fourteen.

The ceded lands, north of Ogeechie shall be one county, and known by the name of Wilkes.

The parish of St. Paul shall be another county, and known by the name of Richmond.

The parish of St. George shall be another county, and known by the name of Burke.

The parish of St. Matthew, and the upper part of St. Philip, above Canouchie, shall be another county, and known by the name of Effingham.

The parish of Christ-Church, and the lower part of St. Philip, below Canouchie, shall be another county, and known by the name of Chatham.

The parishes of St. John, St. Andrew, and St. James, shall be another county, and known by the name of Liberty.

The parishes of St. David and St. Patrick shall be another county, and known by the name of Glyn.

The parishes of St. Thomas and St. Mary shall be another county, and known by the name of Camden.

The port and town of Savannah, shall be allowed four members to represent their trade.

The port and town of Sunbury shall be allowed two members to represent their trade.

5. The two counties of Glyn and Camden shall have one representative each, and also they, and all other counties that may hereafter be laid out by the house of assembly, shall be under the following regulations, *viz.* at their first institution, each county shall have one member, provided the inhabitants of the said county shall have ten electors; and if thirty, they shall have two; if forty, three, if sixty, four; if eighty, six; if an hundred and upwards, ten; at which

which time two executive counsellors shall be chosen from them, as is directed for the other counties.

6. The representatives shall be chosen out of the residents in each county, who shall have resided, at least twelve months in this state, and three months in the county where they shall be elected; except the freeholders of the counties of Glyn and Camden, who are in a state of alarm, and who shall have the liberty of choosing one member each, as specified in the articles of this constitution, in any other county, until they have residents sufficient to qualify them for more: And they shall be of the Protestant religion, and of the age of twenty-one years, and shall be possessed in their own right of two hundred and fifty acres of land, or some property to the amount of two hundred and fifty pounds.

7. The house of assembly shall have power to make such laws and regulations, as may be conducive to the good order and well being of the state; provided such laws and regulations be not repugnant to the true intent and meaning of any rule or regulation, contained in this constitution.

The house of assembly shall also have power to repeal all laws, and ordinances, they find injurious to the people: And the house shall choose its own speaker, appoint its own officers, settle its own rules of proceeding, and direct writs of election, for supplying intermediate vacancies; and shall have power of adjournment to any time or times within the year.

8. All laws and ordinances shall be three times read, and each reading shall be on different and separate days, except in cases of great necessity and danger; and all laws and ordinances shall be sent to the executive council, after the second reading, for their perusal and advice.

9. All male white inhabitants, of the age of twenty-one years, and possessed, in his own right, of ten pounds value, and liable to pay tax in this state, or being of any mechanic trade, and shall have been a resident six months in this state, shall have a right to vote at all elections for representatives, or any other officers, herein agreed to be chosen by the people at large; and every person having a right to vote at any election, shall vote by ballot personally.

10. No officer whatever shall serve any process, or give any other hindrance to any person intitled to vote either in going to the place of election, or during the time of the

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said election, or on their returning home from such election; nor shall any military officer, or soldier, appear, at any election in a military character, to the intent that all elections may be free and open.

11. No person shall be entitled to more than one vote, which shall be given in the county where such person resides, except as before excepted; nor shall any person, who holds any title of nobility, be entitled to a vote, or be capable of serving as a representative, or hold any post of honour, profit, or trust, in this state, while such person claims his title of nobility; but if the person shall give up such distinction, in the manner as may be directed by any future legislature, then, and in such case, he shall be entitled to a vote, and represent, as before directed; and enjoy all the other benefits of a free citizen.

12. Every person absenting himself from an election, and shall neglect to give in his, or their ballot, at such election, shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding five pounds; the mode of recovery, and also the appropriation thereof, to be pointed out, and directed by act of the legislature; provided nevertheless, that a reasonable excuse shall be admitted.

13. The manner of electing representatives shall be by ballot, and shall be taken by two or more justices of the peace, in each county, who shall provide a convenient box for receiving the said ballots, and on closing the poll, the ballots shall be compared in public with the lists of voters, that have been taken, and the majority immediately declared; a certificate of the same being given to the persons elected, and also a certificate returned to the house of representatives.

14. Every person entitled to vote shall take the following oath or affirmation, if required, viz.

"I, A. B. do voluntarily and solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I do owe true allegiance to this state, and will support the constitution thereof. So help me God."

15. Any five of the representatives elected, as before directed, being met, shall have power to administer the following oath, to each other; and they, or any other member, being so sworn, shall in the house administer the oath,

to all other members that attend, in order to qualify them to take their seats, *viz*,

" I, A. B. do solemnly swear, that I will bear true allegiance to the state of Georgia; and will truly perform the trust reposed in me; and that I will execute the same to the best of my knowledge, for the benefit of this state, and the support of the constitution thereof; and that I have obtained my election, without fraud or bribe whatever. So help me God,"

16. The Continental delegates shall be appointed annually by ballot, and shall have a right to sit, debate and vote in the house of assembly, and be deemed a part thereof; subject however to the regulations contained in the twelfth article of the confederation of the united states.

17. No person bearing any post of profit under this state, or any person bearing any military commission, under this, or any other state or states, except officers of the militia, shall be elected a representative. And if any representative shall be appointed to any place of profit, or military commission, which he shall accept, his seat shall immediately become vacant, and he shall be incapable of re-election whilst holding such office,

By this article it is not to be understood, that the office of a justice of the peace is a post of profit.

18. No person shall hold more than one office of profit, under this state, at one and the same time.

19. The Governor shall, with the advice of the executive council, exercise the executive powers of government, according to the laws of this state, and the constitution thereof; save only in the case of pardons, and remission of fines, which he shall in no instance grant; but he may reprieve a criminal, or suspend a fine, until the meeting of the assembly, who may determine therein, as they shall judge fit.

20. The Governor with the advice of the executive council, shall have power to call the house of assembly together, upon any emergency, before the time which they stand adjourned to.

21. The Governor, with the advice of the executive council, shall fill up all intermediate vacancies, that shall happen in offices, till the next general election: And all
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commissions civil and military shall be issued by the Governor, under his hand and the great seal of the state.

22. The Governor may preside in the executive council at all times, except when they are taking into consideration and perusing the laws and ordinances, offered to them by the house of assembly.

23. The Governor shall be chosen annually by ballot, and shall not be eligible to the said office, for more than one year out of three, nor shall he hold any military commission, under any other state or states.

The Governor shall reside at such place as the house of assembly for the time being shall appoint.

24. The Governor's oath.

"I, A. B. elected Governor of the state of Georgia, by the representatives thereof, do solemnly promise and swear, that I will, during the term of my appointment, to the best of my skill and judgment, execute the said office faithfully, and conscientiously, according to law, without favour, affection, or partiality; that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the state of Georgia, and the constitution of the same; and use my utmost endeavours to protect the people thereof, in the secure enjoyment of all their rights, franchises and privileges; and that the laws and ordinances of the state be duly observed, and that law and justice in mercy be executed in all judgments. And I do further solemnly promise and swear, that I will peaceably and quietly resign the government to which I have been elected, at the period to which my continuance in the said office is limited by the constitution: And lastly, I do also solemnly swear, that I have not accepted of the government whereunto I am elected, contrary to the articles of this constitution. So help me God."

This oath to be administered to him by the speaker of the assembly.

The same oath to be administered by the speaker to the president of the council.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Governor, who has not resided three years in this state.

25. The executive council shall meet the day after their election, and proceed to the choice of a president out of their own body; they shall have power to appoint their own officers, and settle their own rules of proceedings.

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The council shall always vote by counties, and not individually.

26. Every counsellor, being present, shall have power of entering his protest against any measures in council, he has not consented to ; provided he does it within three days.

27. During the sitting of the assembly, the whole of the executive council shall attend, unless prevented by sickness, or some other urgent necessity ; and in that case, a majority of the council shall make a board, to examine the laws and ordinances sent them by the house of assembly ; and all laws and ordinances sent to the council, shall be returned in five days after, with their remarks thereon.

28. A committee from the council sent with any proposed amendments to any law, or ordinance, shall deliver their reasons for such proposed amendments, sitting and covered ; the whole house at that time, except the speaker, uncovered.

29. The president of the executive council in the absence or sickness of the Governor, shall exercise all the powers of the Governor.

30. When any affair that requires secrecy shall be laid before the Governor, and the executive council, it shall be the duty of the Governor, and he is hereby obliged to administer the following oath, *viz.*

“ I, A. B. do solemnly swear, that any business that shall be at this time communicated to the council, I will not, in any manner whatever, either by speaking, writing, or otherwise reveal the same, to any person whatever, until leave given by the council, or when called upon by the house of assembly ; and all this I swear without any reservation whatever. So help me God.”

And the same oath shall be administered to the secretary, and other officers necessary to carry the business into execution.

31. The executive power shall exist, till renewed, as pointed out by the rules of this constitution.

32. In all transactions between the legislative and executive bodies, the same shall be communicated by message, to be delivered from the legislative body to the Governor, or executive council, by a committee ; and from the Governor to the house of assembly, by the secretary of the council, and

and from the council.

33. The general, and other military

34. All commissions

35. Every one who has, two years, bear arms, become to be called into military service, that have been formed

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and from the executive council, by a committee of the said council.

33. The Governor, for the time being, shall be Captain-general, and Commander in Chief, over all the militia, and other military and naval forces belonging to this state.

34. All militia commissions shall specify, that the person commissioned shall continue during good behaviour.

35. Every county in this state, that has, or hereafter may have, two hundred and fifty men, and upwards, liable to bear arms, shall be formed into a battalion, and when they become too numerous for one battalion, they shall be formed into more, by bill of the legislature; and those counties that have a less number than two hundred and fifty, shall be formed into independent companies.

36. There shall be established in each county a court, to be called a superior court, to be held twice in each year, on the first Tuesday in March, in the county of Chatham.

The second Tuesday in March, in the county of Effingham.

The third Tuesday in March, in the county of Burke.

The fourth Tuesday in March, in the county of Richmond.

The next Tuesday in the county of Wilkes.

And Tuesday fortnight, in the county of Liberty,

The next Tuesday in the county of Glyn.

The next Tuesday in the county of Camden.

The like courts to commence in October, and continue as above.

37. All causes and matters of dispute, between any parties, residing in the same county, to be tried within the county.

38. All matters in dispute between the contending parties, residing in different counties, shall be tried in the county where the defendant resides; except in cases of real estates, which shall be tried in the county where such real estate lies.

39. All matters of breach of the peace, felony, murder, and treason against the state, to be tried in the county, where the crime was committed. All matters of dispute, both civil and criminal, in any county, where there is not a sufficient number of inhabitants, to form a court, shall be tried in the next adjacent county, where a court is held.

40. All causes of what nature soever, shall be tried in the superior court, except as hereafter mentioned; which court shall consist of the chief justice, and three or more of the justices residing in the county; in case of the absence of the chief justice, the senior justice on the bench shall act as chief justice, with the clerk of the county, attorney for the state, sheriff, coroner, constable, and the jurors. And in case of the absence of any of the aforementioned officers, the justices on the bench to appoint others in their room *pro tempore*. And if any plaintiff or defendant in civil causes shall be dissatisfied with the determination of the jury, then, and in that case, they shall be at liberty within three days, to enter an appeal from that verdict; and demand a new trial by a special jury, to be nominated as follows, *viz*, each party, plaintiff and defendant, shall chuse six, six more names shall be taken indifferently out of a box provided for that purpose, the whole eighteen to be summoned, and their names to be put together into the box, and the first twelve that are drawn out, being present, shall be the special jury to try the cause, and from which there shall be no appeal.

41. The jury shall be judges of law, as well as of fact, and shall not be allowed to bring in a special verdict; but if all, or any of the jury, have any doubts concerning points of law, they shall apply to the bench, who shall each of them in rotation give their opinion.

42. The jury shall be sworn to bring in a verdict according to law, and the opinion they entertain of the evidence; provided it be not repugnant to the rules and regulations contained in this constitution.

43. The special jury shall be sworn to bring in a verdict, according to law, and the opinion they entertain of the evidence; provided it be not repugnant to justice, equity and conscience, and the rules and regulations contained in this constitution, of which they shall judge.

44. Captures both by sea and land to be tried in the county where such shall be carried in; a special court to be called by the chief justice, or in his absence, by the then senior justice in the said county, upon application of the captors or claimants, which cause shall be determined within the space of ten days. The mode of proceeding and appeal shall be the same as in the superior courts, unless after the

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second trial, an appeal is made to the continental Congress ; and the distance of time, between the first and second trial, shall not exceed fourteen days ; And all maritime causes to be tried in like manner.

45. No grand-jury shall consist of less than eighteen, and twelve may find a bill.

46. That the court of conscience be continued as heretofore practised, and that the jurisdiction thereof be extended to try causes, not amounting to more than ten pounds.

47. All executions exceeding five pounds, except in the case of a court merchant, shall be stayed, until the first Monday in March ; provided security be given for debts and costs.

48. All the costs attending any action in the superior court shall not exceed the sum of three pounds, and that no cause be allowed to depend in the superior court longer than two terms,

49. Every officer of the state shall be liable to be called to account by the house of assembly.

50. Every county shall keep the public records belonging to the same ; and authenticated copies of the several records, now in the possession of this state, shall be made out, and deposited in that county to which they belong.

51. Estates shall not be entailed, and when a person dies intestate, his or her estate shall be divided equally among their children ; the widow shall have a child's share, or her dower at her option ; all other intestate estates to be divided, according to the act of distribution, made in the reign of Charles the second ; unless otherwise altered by any future act of the legislature.

52. A register of probates shall be appointed by the legislature in every county, for proving wills, and granting letters of administration.

53. All civil officers in each county shall be annually elected, on the day of the general election, except justices of the peace, and registers of probate, who shall be appointed by the house of assembly.

54. Schools shall be erected in each county, and supported at the general expence of the state, as the legislature shall hereafter point out.

55. A court-house and goal shall be erected at the public expence

expençe in each county, where the present convention, or the future legislature, shall point out and direct.

56. All persons whatever shall have the free exercise of their religion; provided it be not repugnant to the peace and safety of the state; and shall not, unless by consent, support any teacher or teachers, except those of their own profession.

57. The great seal of the state shall have the following device; on one side a scroll, whereon shall be engraved, *The Constitution of the State of Georgia*, and the motto, *Pro bono publico*; on the other side, an elegant house, and other buildings, fields of corn, and meadows covered with sheep and cattle; a river running through the same, with a ship under full sail, and the motto, *Deus nobis hæc Otia fecit*.

58. No person shall be allowed to plead in the courts of law, in this state, except those who are authorised so to do, by the house of assembly; and if any person so authorised shall be found guilty of mal-practice before the house of assembly, they shall have power to suspend them. This is not intended to exclude any person from that inherent privilege of every freeman, the liberty to plead his own cause.

59. Excessive fines shall not be levied, nor excessive bail demanded.

60. The principles of the habeas-corpus act, shall be part of this constitution.

61. Freedom of the press, and trial by jury, to remain inviolate for ever.

62. No clergyman, of any denomination, shall be allowed a seat in the legislature.

63. No alteration shall be made in this constitution without petitions from a majority of the counties, and the petitions from each county to be signed by a majority of voters in each county within this state. At which time the assembly shall order a convention to be called for that purpose, specifying the alterations to be made, according to the petitions preferred to the assembly by the majority to the counties, as aforesaid.

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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

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DECLARATION

By the Representatives of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA, in CONGRESS assembled.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident ; that all men are created equal ; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes ; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies ; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great-Britain

Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

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He has kept among us in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and un-acknowledged by our laws ; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation :

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us :

For protecting them by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states :

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world :

For imposing taxes on us without our consent :

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury :

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences :

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies :

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments :

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, dissolution and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

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He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts made by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the united states of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great-Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honour.

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JOHN HANCOCK.

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Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Pain, Elbridge Gerry.

RHODE-ISLAND, &c.

Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

CONNECTICUT.

Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

NEW-YORK.

William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.

NEW-JERSEY.

Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.

DELAWARE.

Cæsar Rodney, George Read.

MARYLAND.

Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

VIRGINIA.

George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, jun. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

William Hooper, Joseph Hews, John Penn.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, jun. Thomas Lynch, jun. Arthur Middleton.

GEORGIA.

Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.

ARTICLES

O F

CONFEDERATION *and* PERPETUAL UNION,

B E T W E E N

The States of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-
Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York,
New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia,
North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia.*

Article 1. **T**HE title of this confederacy shall be, "*The
United States of America.*"

Art. 2. Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and
independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right which
is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the united
states in Congress assembled.

Art. 3. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm
league of friendship with each other, for their common de-
fence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and
general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, a-
gainst all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or
any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or
any other pretence whatever.

Art. 4. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual
friendship and intercourse among the people of the different
states in this union, the free inhabitants of each of these
states, paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice ex-
cepted, shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of
free citizens in the several states; and the people of each
state shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other
state, & shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and com-
merce, subject to the same duties, impositions and restrictions
as the inhabitants thereof respectively, provided that such
restrictions shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal
of property imported into any state, to any other state of
which the owner is an inhabitant; provided also that no
imposition, duties or restriction shall be laid by any state, on
the property of the united states, or either of them.

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If any person guilty of or charged with treason, felony, or other high misdemeanor in any state, shall flee from justice, and be found in any of the united states, he shall upon demand of the Governor, or executive power of the state from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the state having jurisdiction of his offence.

Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these states to the records, acts and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other state.

Art. 5 For the more convenient management of the general interests of the united states, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each state to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead, for the remainder of the year.

No state shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years, in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the united states, for which he, or any other for his benefit, receives any salary, fees or emolument of any kind.

Each state shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the states, and while they act as members of the committee of the states.

In determining questions in the united states in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote.

Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be impeached or questioned in any court, or place out of Congress, and the members of Congress shall be protected in their persons from arrests and imprisonments, during the time of their going to and from, and attendance on Congress, except for treason, felony or breach of the peace.

Art. 6. No state, without the consent of the united states in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance, or treaty with any King, Prince or state; nor shall any person, holding any office of profit or trust under the united states, or any of them, accept of any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever, from

Articles of Confederation.

any King, Prince or foreign state; nor shall the united states in Congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility,

No two or more states shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the united states in Congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.

No state shall lay any imposts or duties, which may interfere with any stipulations in treaties, entered into by the united states in Congress assembled, with any King, Prince or state, in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by Congress, to the courts of France and Spain.

No vessels of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any state, except such number only as shall be deemed necessary by the united states in Congress assembled, for the defence of such state, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any state, in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgment of the united states, in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defence of such state; but every state shall always keep up a well regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutred, and shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of field pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition, and camp equipage.

No state shall engage in any war without the consent of the united states in Congress assembled, unless such state be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such state, and the danger is so eminent as not to admit of a delay, till the united states in Congress assembled can be consulted: nor shall any state grant commissions to any ships or vessels of war, nor letters of marque or reprisal, except it be after a declaration of war by the united states in Congress assembled, and then only against the kingdom or state and the subjects thereof, against which war has been so declared, and under such regulations as shall be established by the united states in Congress assembled, unless such state be infested by pirates, in which case vessels of war may be fitted out for that occasion, and kept

As long as the danger shall continue, or until the united states in Congress assembled, shall determine otherwise.

Art. 7. when land forces are raised by any state for the common defence, all officers of or under the rank of colonel, shall be appointed by the legislature of each state respectively, by whom such forces shall be raised, or in such manner as such state shall direct, and all vacancies shall be filled up by the state which first made the appointment.

Art. 8. All charges of war, and all other expences that shall be incurred for the common defence or general welfare; and allowed by the united states in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states, in proportion to the value of all land within each state, granted to or surveyed for any person, as such land and the buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated, according to such mode as the united states in Congress assembled, shall from time to time appoint. The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states within the time agreed upon by the united states in Congress assembled.

Art. 9. The united states in congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war, except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article; of sending and receiving ambassadors; entering into treaties and alliances, provided that no treaty of commerce shall be made, whereby the legislative power of the respective states shall be restrained from imposing such imposts and duties on foreigners, as their own people are subjected to, or from prohibiting the exportation or importation of any species of goods or commodities whatsoever; of establishing rules for deciding in all cases, what captures on land or water shall be legal, and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval forces in the service of the united states shall be divided or appropriated; of granting letters of marque and reprisal in time of peace; appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and establishing courts for receiving and determining finally appeals in all cases of captures, provided that no member of Congress shall be appointed a judge of any of the said courts.

The united states in Congress assembled shall also be the
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last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting, or that hereafter may arise, between two or more states concerning boundary, jurisdiction, or any other cause whatever ; which authority shall always be exercised in the manner following. Whenever the legislative or executive authority or lawful agent of any state in controversy with another, shall present a petition to Congress, stating the matter in question, and praying for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by order of Congress to the legislative or executive authority of the other state in controversy, and a day assigned for the appearance of the parties, by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question ; but if they cannot agree, Congress shall name three persons out of each of the united states, and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, the petitioners beginning, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen ; and from that number not less than seven, nor more than nine names, as Congress shall direct, shall in the presence of Congress be drawn out by lot ; and the persons whose names shall be so drawn, or any five of them, shall be commissioners or judges, to hear and finally determine the controversy, so always as a major part of the judges, who shall hear the cause, shall agree in the determination : and if either party shall neglect to attend at the day appointed, without shewing reasons which Congress shall judge sufficient, or being present shall refuse to strike, the Congress shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each state, and the secretary of Congress shall strike in behalf of such party absent or refusing ; and the judgment and sentence of the court to be appointed in the manner before prescribed, shall be final and conclusive ; and if any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court to appear or defend their claim or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgment, which shall in like manner be final and decisive ; the judgment or sentence and other proceedings being in either case transmitted to Congress

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gress, and lodged among the acts of Congress, for the security of the parties concerned : provided that every commissioner, before he sits in judgment, shall take an oath, to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the state, where the cause shall be tried, " well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to the best of his judgment, without favour, affection, or hope of reward : " provided also, that no state shall be deprived of territory, for the benefit of the united states.

All controversies concerning the private right of soil claimed under different grants of two or more states, whose jurisdictions as they may respect such lands, and the states which passed such grants are adjusted, the said grants or either of them being at the same time claimed to have originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction, shall on the petition of either party to the Congress of the united states, be finally determined, as near as may be, in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction between different states.

The united states in congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the respective states ; fixing the standard of weights and measures throughout the united states ; regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, not members of any of the states, provided that the legislative right of any state within its own limits be not infringed or violated ; establishing and regulating post-office, from one state to another, throughout all the united states, and exacting such postage on the papers passing through the same, as may be requisite to defray the expences of the said office ; appointing all officers of the land forces, in the service of the united states, excepting regimental officers ; appointing all the officers of the naval forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service of the united states ; making rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces, and directing their operations.

The

The united states in Congress assembled shall have authority to appoint a committee, to sit in the recess of Congress, to be denominated, *A Committee of the States*, and to consist of one delegate from each state; and to appoint such other committees and civil officers as may be necessary for managing the general affairs of the united states under their direction; to appoint one of their number to preside, provided that no person be allowed to serve in the office of president more than one year in any term of three years; to ascertain the necessary sums of money to be raised for the service of the united states, and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying the public expences; to borrow money or emit bills on the credit of the united states, transmitting every half year to the respective states, an account of the sums of money so borrowed or emitted; to build and equip a navy; to agree upon the number of land forces, and to make requisitions from each state for its quota, in proportion to the number of white inhabitants in such state, which requisition shall be binding; and thereupon the legislature of each state shall appoint the regimental officers, raise the men, and cloath, arm, and equip them in a soldier like manner, at the expence of the united states, and the officers and men so cloathed, armed, and equipped, shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the united states in Congress assembled: but if the united states in Congress assembled shall, on consideration of circumstances, judge proper that any state should not raise men, or should raise a smaller number than its quota, and that any other state should raise a greater number of men than the quota thereof, such extra number shall be raised, officered, cloathed, armed, and equipped in the same manner as the quota of such state, unless the legislature of such state shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spared out of the same, in which case they shall raise, officer, cloath, arm, and equip, as many of such extra number as they judge can be safely spared. And the officers and men so cloathed, armed, and equipped, shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the united states in Congress assembled.

The united states in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque and reprisal, in time

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of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expences necessary for the defence and welfare of the united states, nor any of them, nor emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the united states. nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, nor appoint a Commander in Chief of the army or navy, unless nine states assent to the same : Nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day, be determined, unless by the votes of a majority of the united states in Congress assembled.

The Congress of the united states shall have power to adjourn to any time within the year, and to any place within the united states, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration than the space of six months, and shall publish the journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in their judgment require secrecy ; and the yeas and nays of the delegates, of each state on any question shall be entered on the journal, when it is desired by any delegate ; and the delegates of a state, or any of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a transcript of the said journal, except such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several states.

Art. 10. The committees of the states, or any nine of them, shall be authorised to execute, in the recess of Congress, such of the powers of Congress as the united states in Congress assembled, by the consent of nine states, shall from time to time think expedient to vest them with ; provided that no power be delegated to the said committee, for the exercise of which, by the articles of confederation, the voice of nine states, in the Congress of the united states assembled, is requisite.

Art. 11. Canada acceding to this confederation, and joining in the measures of the united states, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this union :

But

But no other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine states.

Art. 12. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed and debts contracted by, or under the authority of Congress, before the assembling of the united states, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the united states, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said united states, and the public faith are hereby solemnly pledged.

Art. 13. Every state shall abide by the determinations of the united states, in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the articles of this confederation shall be inviolably observed by every state, and the union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the united states, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislature of every state.

And whereas it hath pleased the great Governor of the world to incline the hearts of the legislature we respectively represent in Congress, to approve of, and to authorise us to ratify the said articles of confederation and perpetual union. *Know ye*, that we, the undersigned delegates, by virtue of the power and authority to us given for that purpose, do, by these presents, in the name and in behalf of our respective constituents, fully and entirely ratify and confirm each and every of the said articles of confederation and perpetual union, and all and singular the matters and things therein contained. And we do further solemnly plight and engage the faith of our respective constituents, that they shall abide by the determinations of the united states in Congress assembled, on all questions which by the said confederation are submitted to them; and that the articles thereof shall be inviolably

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Articles of Confederation.

violably observed by the states we respectively represent, and that the union shall be perpetual. *In witness whereof*, we have hereunto set our hands in Congress.

DONE at Philadelphia in the state of Pennsylvania, the 9th. day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1778. and in the third year of the independence of America.

The aforesaid articles of confederation were finally ratified on the first day of March, 1781; the state of Maryland having, by their members in Congress, on that day acceded thereto, and compleated the same.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Josiah Bartlet, John Wentworth, jun.

MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Francis Dana, James Lovell, Samuel Holton.

RHODE-ISLAND, &c.

William Ellery, Henry Merchant, John Collins.

CONNECTICUT.

Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, Oliver Wolcott, Titus Hosmer, Andrew Adams.

NEW-YORK.

James Duane, Francis Lewis, William Duer, Gouverneur Morris.

NEW-JERSEY.

John Witherspoon, Nathaniel Scudder.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Robert Morris, Daniel Roberdeau, Jonathan Bayard Smith, William Clingan, Joseph Reed.

DELAWARE.

Thomas M^cKean, John Dickinson, Nicholas Vandyke.

MARYLAND.

John Hanson, Daniel Carroll.

VIRGINIA.

Richard Henry Lee, John Banister, Thomas Adams, John Harvey, Francis Lightfoot Lee.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

John Penn, Cornelius, Harnett, John Williams.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

Henry Laurens, William Henry Drayton, John Matthews, Richard Hutson, Thomas Heyward, jun.

GEORGIA.

John Walton, Edward Telfair, Edward Longworthy.

TREATIES

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T R E A T I E S

B E T W E E N

HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY,

A N D

The THIRTEEN UNITED STATES of AMERICA.


T R E A T Y of A M I T Y & C O M M E R C E.

LOUIS by the Grace of G O D, King of France and Navarre.

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting :

THE Congress of the Thirteen united states of North-America, having by their plenipotentiaries residing at Paris, notified their desire to establish with us and our states, a good understanding and perfect correspondence, and having for that purpose proposed to conclude with us a **TREATY of AMITY and COMMERCE** : We having thought it our duty to give to the said states a sensible proof of our affection, determining us to accept of their proposals : For these causes, and other good considerations us thereunto moving, we, reposing entire confidence in the abilities and experience, zeal and fidelity for our services, of our dear and beloved Conrad Alexander Gerard, royal Syndic of the city of Strasbourg, and secretary of our council or state, have nominated, appointed, and commissioned, and by these presents signed with our hand, do nominate, appoint and commission him our plenipotentiary, giving him power and special command for us and in our name to agree upon, conclude and sign with the plenipotentiaries of the united states, equally furnished in due form with full powers, such treaty, convention, and articles of commerce and navigation as he shall think proper, willing that he act with the same authority as we might or could act, if we were personally present, and even as though he had more special command than what is herein contained : promising in good faith and on the word of a King, to agree to, confirm, and establish for ever, and to accomplish and execute punctually, all that our said dear and beloved Conrad Alexander Gerard shall stipulate and sign, by virtue of the present power, without contravening in any manner, or suffering it to be contravened for any cause, or under any pretext, whatsoever ; and also to ratify the same in due form, and cause our ratifications to be delivered and exchanged in the time that it shall be agreed on. For such is our pleasure. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our seal. Done at Versailles this

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thirtieth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, and the fourth year of our reign,

(L. S.)

(Signed)

L O U I S.

(Underneath)

By the King.

G R A V I E R de V E R G E N E S.

The T R E A T Y.

THE Most Christian King and the Thirteen United States of North-America, to wit, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina & Georgia, willing to fix in an equitable and permanent manner, the rules which ought to be followed relative to the correspondence and commerce which the two parties desire to establish between their respective countries, states and subjects; his most Christian Majesty and the said United States have judged that the said end could not be better obtained than by taking for the basis of their agreement, the most perfect equality and reciprocity, and by carefully avoiding all those burthensome preferences which are usually sources of debate, embarrassment and discontent; by leaving also each party at liberty to make respecting navigation and commerce, those interior regulations which it shall find most convenient to itself, and by founding the advantage of commerce solely upon reciprocal utility, and the just rules of free intercourse; reserving withal to each party the liberty of admitting, at its pleasure, other nations to a participation of the same advantages. It is in the spirit of this intention, & to fulfil these views, that his said majesty having named and appointed for his plenipotentiary, Conrad Alexander Gerard, royal Syndic of the city of Strasbourg, secretary of his majesty's council of state; and the United States on their part, having fully empowered Benjamin Franklin, deputy from the state of Pennsylvania to the general Congress, and president to the convention of the said state; Silas Deane, late deputy from the state of Connecticut to the said Congress, and Arthur Lee, counsellor at law: The said respective plenipotentiaries, after exchanging their powers, and after mature deliberation, have concluded and agreed upon the following articles.

ART. I. There shall be a firm, inviolable and universal peace, and a true and sincere friendship between the most Christian King his heirs and successors, and the United States of America, and the subjects of the most Christian King and of the said States, and between the countries, islands, cities and towns situate under the jurisdiction of the most Christian King, and of the said United States, and the people and inhabitants of every degree, without exception of persons or places, and the terms herein after mentioned, shall be perpetual between the most Christian King, his heirs and successors, and the said United States.

ART. II. The most Christian King and the United States engage mutually not to grant any particular favour to other nations, in respect of commerce and navigation, which shall not immediately become common to the other party, who shall enjoy the same favour freely, if the concession

concession was freely made, or on allowing the same compensation, if the concession was conditional.

ART. III. The subjects of the most Christian King shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities or towns of the United States, or any of them, no other or greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by what name soever called, than those which the nations most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, whether in passing from one port in the said States to another, or in going to and from the same, from and to any part of the world, which the said nations do or shall enjoy.

ART. IV. The subjects, people and inhabitants of the said United States, and each of them, shall not pay in the ports, havens, roads, islands, cities and places under the denomination of his most Christian Majesty, in Europe, any other or greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by what name soever called, than those which the most favoured nations are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, whether in passing from one port in the said dominions in Europe to another, or in going to and from the same, from and to any part of the world, which the said nations do or shall enjoy.

ART. V. In the above exemption is particularly comprized, the imposition of one hundred sous per ton, established in France on foreign ships, unless when the ships of the United States shall load with the merchandize of France, for another port of the said dominion; in which case the said ships shall pay the duty above-mentioned, so long as other nations the most favoured shall be obliged to pay it; but it is understood, that the said United States, or any of them, are at liberty, when they shall judge it proper, to establish a duty equivalent in the same case.

ART. VI. The most Christian King shall endeavour, by all the means in his power, to protect and defend all vessels and the effects belonging to the subjects, people or inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, being in his ports, havens or roads, or on the seas near his countries, islands, cities or towns; and to recover and restore to the right owners, their agents or attornies, all such vessels and effects which shall be taken within his jurisdiction; & the ships of war of his most Christian Majesty, or any convoy sailing under his authority, shall, upon all occasions, take under their protection all vessels belonging to the subjects people or inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, and holding the same course, or going the same way, and shall defend such vessels, as long as they hold the same course, or go the same way, against all attacks force or violence, in the same manner as they ought to protect and defend the vessels belonging to the subjects of the most Christian King.

ART. VII. In like manner the said United States, and their ships of war, sailing under their authority, shall protect and defend, conformably to the tenor of the preceeding article, all the vessels and effects belonging to the subjects of the most Christian King, and use all their endeavours to recover, and cause to be restored, the said vessels and effects that shall have been taken within the jurisdiction of the said United States, or any of them.

ART. VIII. The most Christian King will employ his good offices and interposition with the King or Emperor of Morocco or Fez; the regencies of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoly, or with any of them; and also with every other Prince, State or power, of the coast of Barbary in Afri-

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ca ; and the subjects of the said King, Emperor, States and powers, and each of them, in order to provide as fully and efficaciously as possible for the benefit, conveniency and safety, of the said United States, and each of them, their subjects, people and inhabitants, and their vessels and effects, against all violence, insults, attacks or depredations, on the part of the said Princes, and States of Barbary, or their subjects.

ART. IX. The subjects, inhabitants, merchants, commanders of ships, masters and mariners of the States, Provinces and Dominions of each party respectively, shall abstain and forbear to fish in all places possessed, or which shall be possessed by the other party ; the most Christian King's subjects shall not fish in the havens, bays, creeks, roads, coasts or places, which the said United States hold, or shall hereafter hold ; and in like manner the subjects, people and inhabitants of the United States, shall not fish in the havens, bays, creeks, roads, coasts or places, which the most Christian King possesses, or shall hereafter possess ; and if any ship or vessel shall be found fishing, contrary to the tenor of this treaty, the said ship or vessel with its lading, (proof being made thereof) shall be confiscated ; it is however understood that the exclusion stipulated in the present article, shall take place only so long and so far, as the most Christian King or the United States shall not in this respect have granted an exemption to some other nation.

ART. X. The United States, their citizens and inhabitants, shall never disturb the subjects of the most Christian King in the enjoyment and exercise of the right of fishing on the banks of Newfoundland, nor in the indefinite & exclusive right which belongs to them on that part of the coast of that island which is designed by the treaty of Utrecht, nor in the right relative to all and each of the isles which belong to his most Christian Majesty, the whole conformable to the true sense of the treaties of Utrecht and Paris.

ART. XI. The subjects and inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, shall not be reputed AUBAINS in France, and consequently shall be exempted from the DROIT D' AUBAINE, or other similar duty, under what name soever ; they may by testament, donation, or otherwise dispose of their goods, moveable and immoveable, in favour of such persons as to them shall seem good, and their heirs, subjects of the United States, residing whether in France or elsewhere, may succeed them, AB INTESTAT, without being obliged to obtain letters of naturalization, and without having the effect of this concession contested or impeded, under pretext of any rights and prerogatives of provinces, cities, or private persons ; and the said heirs, whether such by particular title, or AB INTESTAT, shall be exempted from all duty called DROIT DE DETRACTION, or other duty of the same kind ; saving nevertheless the local rights or duties, as much and as long as similar ones are not established by the United States, or any of them. The subjects of the most Christian King shall enjoy on their part, in all the dominions of the said States, an entire and perfect reciprocity, relative to the stipulations contained in the present article : but it is at the same time agreed, that its contents shall not effect the laws made, or that may be made hereafter in France, against emigrations, which shall remain in all their force and vigour ; and the United States, on their part, or any of them, shall be at liberty to enact such laws, relative to that matter, as to them shall seem proper.

ART. XII. The merchant ships of either of the parties, which shall be making into a port belonging to the enemy of the other ally, and concerning whose voyage and the species of goods on board her, there shall be just grounds of suspicion, shall be obliged to exhibit, as well upon the high seas, as in the ports and havens, not only her passports, but like

wife certificates, expressly shewing that her goods are not of the number of those which have been prohibited as contraband.

ART. XIII. If by exhibiting of the above said certificates, the other party discover there are any of those sorts of goods which are prohibited and declared contraband, and consigned for a port under the obedience of his enemy, it shall not be lawful to break up the hatches of such ship, or to open any chest, coffers, packs, casks, or any other vessels found therein, or to remove the smallest parcel of her goods whether such ship belongs to the subjects of France, or the inhabitants of the said United States, unless the lading be brought on shore, in the presence of the officers of the Court of admiralty, and an inventory thereof made; but there shall be no allowance to sell, exchange, or alienate the same in any matter, until that after due and lawful process shall have been had against such prohibited goods, and the court of admiralty shall, by a sentence pronounced, have confiscated the same, saving always as well the ship itself, as any other goods found therein, which by this treaty are to be esteemed free; neither may they be detained on pretence of their being as it were infected by the prohibited goods, much less shall they be confiscated as lawful prize; but if not the whole cargo, but only part thereof shall consist of prohibited or contraband goods, and the commander of the ship shall be ready and willing to deliver them to the captor who has discovered them, in such case the captor having received those goods, shall forthwith discharge the ship, and not hinder her by any means freely to prosecute the voyage on which she was bound. But in case the contraband merchandizes cannot all be received on board the vessel of the captor, then the captor may, notwithstanding the offer of delivering him the contraband goods, carry the vessel into the nearest port, agreeable to what is above directed.

ART. XIV. On the contrary it is agreed, that whatever shall be found to be laden by the subjects and inhabitants of either party on any ship belonging to the enemies of the other, or to their subjects, the whole, although it be not of the sort of prohibited goods, may be confiscated in the same manner as if it belonged to the enemy, except such goods and merchandize as were put on board such ship before the declaration of war, or even after such declaration, if so be it were done without knowledge of such declaration; so that the goods of the subjects and people of either party, whether they be of the nature of such as are prohibited or otherwise, which, as is aforesaid, were put on board any ship belonging to an enemy before the war, or after the declaration of the same, without the knowledge of it, shall no ways be liable to confiscation, but shall well and truly be restored without delay to the proprietors demanding the same; but so as that if the said merchandizes be contraband, it shall not be any ways lawful to carry them afterwards to any ports belonging to the enemy. The two contracting parties agree, that the term of two months being passed after the declaration of war, their respective subjects, from whatever part of the world they come, shall not plead the ignorance mentioned in this article.

ART. XV. And that the more effectual care may be taken for the security of the subjects and inhabitants of both parties, that they suffer no injury by the men of war or privateers of the other party, all the commanders of the ships of his most Christian Majesty and of the said United States, and all their subjects and inhabitants, shall be forbid doing any injury or damage to the other side; and if any act to the contrary they shall be punished, and shall moreover be bound to make satisfaction for all matter of damage, and the interest thereof, by reparation, under the pain and obligation of their persons and goods.

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ART. XVI. All ships and merchandize of what nature soever, which shall be rescued out of the hands of any pirates or robbers on the high seas, shall be brought into some port of either state, and shall be delivered to the custody of the officers of that port, in order to be restored intire to the true proprietor, as soon as due and sufficient proof shall be made concerning the property thereof.

ART. XVII. It shall be lawful for the ships of war of either party, and privateers, freely to carry whithersoever they please, the ships and goods taken from their enemies, without being obliged to pay any duty to the officers of the admiralty, or any other judges: nor shall such prizes be arrested or seized when they come to and enter the port of either party; nor shall the searchers or other officers of those places search the same, or make examination concerning the lawfulness of such prizes; but they may hoist sail at any time, and depart and carry their prizes to the places expressed in their commissions, which the commanders of such ships of war shall be obliged to shew: on the contrary, no shelter or refuge shall be given in their ports to such as shall have made prize of the subjects, people, or property of either of the parties: but if such shall come in, being forced by stress of weather, or the dangers of the sea, all proper means shall be vigorously used, that they go out and retire from thence as soon as possible.

ART. XVIII. If any ship belonging to either of the parties, their people or subjects, shall within the coasts or dominions of the other, stick upon the sands, or be wrecked or suffer any other damage, all friendly assistance and relief shall be given to the persons shipwrecked, or such as shall be in danger thereof. And letters of safe conduct shall likewise be given to them for their free and quiet passage from thence, and the return of every one to his own country.

ART. XIX. In case the subjects and inhabitants of either party, with their shipping, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, be forced through stress of weather, pursuit of pirates or enemies, or any other urgent necessity, for seeking of shelter and harbour, to retreat and enter into any of the rivers, bays, roads, or ports belonging to the other party, they shall be received and treated with all humanity and kindness, and enjoy all friendly protection and help: and they shall be permitted to refresh and provide themselves at reasonable rates with victuals, and all things needful for the sustenance of their persons, or repair of their ships, and conveniency of their voyage, and they shall not be hindered from returning out of the said ports or roads, but may remove or depart when and whither they please, without any let or hindrance.

ART. XX. For the better promoting of commerce on both sides, it is agreed, that if a war should break out between the said two nations, six months after the proclamation of war shall be allowed to the merchants in the cities and towns where they live, for selling and transporting their goods and merchandizes; and if any thing be taken from them, or any injury be done them within that term, by either party, or the people or subjects of either, full satisfaction shall be made for the same.

ART. XXI. No subject of the most Christian King shall apply for or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any ship or ships to act as privateers against the said United States or any of them, or against the property of any of the inhabitants of any of them from any Prince or State with which the United States shall be at war; nor shall any citizen, subject, or inhabitant of the said United States or any of them, apply for or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any ship or ships to act as privateers against the subjects of the most Christian Kings.

King, or any of them, or the property of any of them, from any Prince or State with which the said King shall be at war; and if any person of either nation shall take such commission or letters of marque, he shall be punished as a pirate.

ART. XXII. It shall not be lawful for any foreign privateers, not belonging to the subjects of the most Christian King, nor citizens of the said United States, who have commissions from any other Prince or State, at enmity with either nation, to fit their ships in the ports of either the one or the other of the aforesaid parties, to sell what they have taken; or in any other manner whatsoever to exchange their ships, merchandizes or any other lading; neither shall they be allowed even to purchase victuals, except such as shall be necessary for their going to the next port of that Prince or State from which they have commissions.

ART. XXIII. It shall be lawful for all and singular the subjects of the most Christian King, and the citizens, people and inhabitants of the said United States, to sail with their ships with all manner of liberty and security, no distinction being made who are the proprietors of the merchandize laden thereon, from any port to the places of those who now are or hereafter shall be at enmity with the most Christian King or the United States. It shall likewise be lawful for the subjects & inhabitants aforesaid, to sail with the ships and merchandizes aforementioned, and to trade with the same liberty and security from the places, ports and havens of those who are enemies of both or either party, without any opposition or disturbance whatsoever not only directly from the places of the enemy aforementioned to neutral places, but also from one place to another belonging to an enemy, whether they be under the jurisdiction of the same Prince or under several. And it is hereby stipulated, that free ships shall also give a freedom to goods, and that every thing shall be deemed free and exempt which shall be found on board the ships belonging to the subjects of either of the confederates, although the whole lading or any part thereof should appertain to the enemies of either, contraband goods being always excepted. It is also agreed in like manner, that the same liberty be extended to persons who are on board a free ship, with this effect, that although they be enemies to both or either party, they are not to be taken out of that free ship, unless they are soldiers and in actual service of the enemies.

ART. XXIV. This liberty of navigation and commerce shall extend to all kinds of merchandizes, except those only which are distinguished by the name of contraband, and under this name of contraband or prohibited goods shall be comprehended arms, great guns, bombs with their fuses and other things belonging to them, cannon ball, gunpowder, match, pikes, swords, lances, spears, halberts, mortars, petards, grenades, saltpetre, muskets, musket-ball, bucklers, helmets, breast-plates, coats of mail, and the like kinds of arms, proper for arming soldiers, musket rests, belts, horses with their furniture, and all other warlike instruments whatever. These merchandises which follow shall not be reckoned among contraband or prohibited goods; that is to say, all sorts of clothes, and all other manufactures woven of any wool, flax, silk, cotton or any other materials whatever, all kinds of wearing apparel, together with the species whereof they are used to be made, gold and silver, as well coined as uncoined, tin, iron, latten, copper, brass, coals; as also wheat and barley, and any other kind of corn, pulse, tobacco, and likewise all manner of spices, salted and smoked flesh, salted fish, cheese and butter, beer, oils, wines, sugars, and in general all provisions which serve for the nourishment of mankind and the suste-

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Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

ance of life; furthermore, all kinds of cotton, hemp, flax, tar, pitch, ropes, cables, sails, sail-cloth, anchors and any parts of anchors, ships, masts, planks, boards and beams of what trees soever, & all other things proper either for building or repairing ships, & all other goods whatever which have not been worked into the form of any instrument or thing prepared for war by land or sea, shall not be reputed contraband; much less such as have been already wrought up for any other use; all which shall be wholly reckoned among free goods; as likewise all other merchandizes and things which are not comprehended and particularly mentioned in the foregoing enumeration of contraband goods, so that they may be transported and carried in the freest manner by the subjects of both confederates, even to places belonging to an enemy, such towns or places being only excepted, as are at that time besieged, blocked up or invested.

ART. XXV. To the end that all manner of dissentions and quarrels may be avoided and prevented; on one side and the other, it is agreed, that in case either of the parties hereto, should be engaged in war, the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects or people of the other ally must be furnished with sea letters or passports, expressing the name, property, and bulk of the ship, as also the name and place of habitation of the master or of commander of said ship, that it may appear thereby that the ship really and truly belongs to the subjects of one of the parties, which passport shall be made out and granted according to the form annexed to this treaty; they shall likewise be recalled every year, that is, if the ship happens to return home within the space of a year; it is also agreed that such ships being laden are to be provided not only with passports as abovementioned, but also with certificates, containing the several particulars of the cargo, the place whence the ship sailed, and whither she is bound, that so it may be known whether any forbidden or contraband goods be on board of the same, which certificates shall be made out by the officers of the place whence the ship set sail, in the accustomed form; and if any one shall think it fit or advisable to express in the said certificates, the person to whom the goods on board belongs, he may freely do so.

ART. XXVI. The ships of the subjects and inhabitants of either of the parties coming upon any coast belonging to either of the said allies, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port and not willing to unload their cargoes or break bulk, they shall be treated according to the general rules prescribed or to be prescribed relative to the object in question.

ART. XXVII. If the ships of the said subjects, people or inhabitants of either of the parties shall be met with, either sailing along the coasts or on the high seas, by any ship of war of the other, or by any privateers, the said ships of war or privateers, for the avoiding of any disorder, shall remain out of cannon shot, and may send their boats on board the merchant ship which they shall so meet with, and may enter her to the number of two or three men only, to whom the master or commander of such ship or vessel shall exhibit his passport concerning the property of the ship, made out according to the form inserted in this present treaty, and the ship, when she shall have shewed such passport, shall be free and at liberty to pursue her voyage, so as it shall not be lawful to molest or search in any manner, or to give her chase or to force her to quit her intended course.

ART. XXVIII. It is also agreed, that all goods, when once put on board the ships or vessels of either of the two contracting parties, shall

Treaty of Amity and Commerce,

be subject to no further visitation, but all visitation or search shall be made before hand, and all prohibited goods shall be stopped on the spot before the same be put on board, unless there are manifest tokens or proofs of fraudulent practice; nor shall either the persons or goods of the subjects of his most Christian Majesty or the united states, be put under any arrest or molested by any other kind of embargo for that cause, and only the subject of that state to whom the said goods have been or shall be prohibited, and who shall presume to sell or alienate such sort of goods, shall be duly punished for the offence.

ART. XXIX. The two contracting parties grant mutually the liberty of having each in the ports of the other, consuls, vice-consuls, agents and commissaries, whose functions shall be regulated by a particular agreement.

ART. XXX. And the more to favour and facilitate the commerce which the subjects of the united states may have with France, the most Christian King will grant them in Europe one or more free ports, where they may bring and dispose of all the produce and merchandize of the thirteen united states; and his majesty will also continue to the subjects of the said states, the free ports which have been and are open in the French islands of America, of all which free ports the said subjects of the united states shall enjoy the use, agreeable to the regulations which relate to them.

ART. XXXI. The present treaty shall be ratified on both sides, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months, or sooner, if possible.

In faith whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the above articles both in the French and English languages; declaring, nevertheless, that the present treaty was originally composed and concluded in the French language, and they have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Paris, this sixth day of February, 1778.

(L. S.)
(L. S.)
(L. S.)
(L. S.)

C. A. GERARD.
B. FRANKLIN.
SILAS DEANE.
ARTHUR LEE.

Form of the Passports and Letters which are to be given to the Ships and Barques according to the Twenty-fifth article of this treaty.

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting.

IT is hereby made known, that leave and permission has been given to
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been visited, and before sailing, he shall make oath before the officers who have the jurisdiction of maritime affairs, that the said ship belongs to one or more of the subjects of the *Act* whereof shall be put at the end of these presents; and likewise that he will keep and cause to be kept by his crew on board, the marine ordinances and regulations, and enter in the proper office a list, signed and witnessed, containing the names and surnames, the places of birth and abode of the crew of his ship, and of all who shall embark on board her, whom he shall not take on board without the knowledge and permission of the officers of the marine, and in every port or haven where he shall enter with his ship, he shall shew his present leave to the officers and judges of the marine, and shall give a faithful account to them of what passed and was done during his voyage, and he shall carry the colours, arms and ensign of the King, or united states during his voyage. In witness whereof we have signed these presents and put the seal of our arms thereunto, and caused the same to be countersigned by
 the day of *Anno Domini*

T R E A T Y of A L L I A N C E,

Eventual and Defensive.

LOUIS by the grace of GOD, King of France and Navarre.

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting :

THE Congress of the united states of North-America, having by their plenipotentiaries residing in France, proposed to form with us a defensive and eventual alliance. Willing to give the said states an efficacious proof of the interest we take in their prosperity, we have determined to conclude the said alliance. For these causes and other good considerations thereto moving, we, reposing entire confidence in the capacity and experience, zeal and fidelity for our service, of our dear and beloved Conrad Alexander Gerard, royal Syndic of the city of Strasbourg, secretary of our council of state, have nominated com-
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Treaty of Alliance.

missioned and deputed, and by these presents signed with our hand, do nominate, commission and depute him our plenipotentiary, giving him power and special command to act in this quality, and confer, negotiate, treat and agree conjointly with the abovementioned plenipotentiaries of the united states, invested in the like manner with powers in due form to determine, conclude and sign such articles, conditions, conventions, declarations, definitive treaty, and any other acts whatever, as he shall judge proper to answer the end which we propose; promising on the faith and word of a King, to agree to, confirm and establish for ever; to accomplish and execute punctually whatever our said dear and beloved Conrad Alexander Gerard shall have stipulated and signed in virtue of the present power, without ever contravening it, or suffering it to be contravened for any cause and under any pretext whatever; as likewise to cause our letters of ratification to be made in due form, and to have them delivered in order to be exchanged at the time that shall be agreed upon. For such is our pleasure. In testimony whereof we have set our seal to these presents. Given at Versailles, the thirtieth day of the month of January, in the year of grace one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight, and the fourth of our reign.

(L. S.)

(Signed)

L O U I S.

By the King.

GRAVIER de VERGENNES.

The T R E A T Y.

THE most Christian King and the united states of North-America, to wit, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia, having this day concluded a treaty of amity and commerce, for the reciprocal advantage of their subjects and citizens, have thought it necessary to take into consideration the means of strengthening those engagements, and of rendering them useful to the safety and tranquillity of the two parties

parties; particularly in case Great-Britain, in resentment of that connexion, and of the good correspondence which is the object of the said treaty, should break the peace with France, either by direct hostilities, or by hindering her commerce and navigation in a manner contrary to the rights of nations, and the peace subsisting between the two crowns. And his majesty and the said united states having resolved in that case, to join their councils and efforts against the enterprizes of their common enemy.

The respective plenipotentiaries impowered to concert the clauses and conditions proper to fulfil the said intentions, have after the most mature deliberation, concluded and determined on the following articles.

Art. 1. If war should break out between France and Great Britain during the continuance of the present war between the united states and England, his Majesty and the said united states shall make it a common cause, and aid each other mutually with their good offices, their councils and their forces, according to the exigencies of conjunctures, as becomes good and faithful allies.

Art. 2. The essential and direct end of the present defensive alliance is to, maintain effectually the liberty, sovereignty and independence absolute and unlimited, of the said united states, as well in matters of government as of commerce.

Art. 3. The two contracting parties shall each on its own part, and in the manner it may judge most proper, make all the efforts in its power against their common enemy, in order to attain the end proposed.

Art. 4. The contracting parties agree, that in case either of them should form any particular enterprize in which the concurrence of the other may be desired, the party whose concurrence is desired, shall readily and with good faith join to act in concert for that purpose, as far as circumstances and its own particular situation will permit, and in that case, they shall regulate by a particular convention the quantity and kind of succour to be furnished, and the time and manner of its being brought into action as well as the advantages which are to be its compensation.

Art. 5. If the united states shall think fit to attempt the reduction of the British power, remaining in the northern parts of America, or the islands of Bermudas, those countries or islands, in case of success, shall be confederated with, or dependent upon the said united states.

Art. 6. The most christian King renounces forever the possession

of the islands of Bermudas, as well as of any part of the continent of North-America, which before the treaty of Paris, in 1763, or in virtue of that treaty, were acknowledged to belong to the crown of Great-Britain, or to the United States, heretofore called British colonies, or which are at this time, or have lately been under the power of the King and crown of Great-Britain.

Art. 7. If his most christian majesty shall think proper to attack any of the islands situated in the Gulph of Mexico, or near that Gulph, which are at present under the power of Great-Britain, all the said isles, in case of success, shall appertain to the crown of France.

Art. 8. Neither of the two parties shall conclude either truce or peace without the formal consent of the other first obtained; and they mutually engage not to lay down their arms, until the independance of the united states have been formally or tacitly assured, by the treaty or treaties that shall terminate the war.

Art. 9. The contracting parties declare, that being resolved to fulfil each on its own part, the clauses and conditions of the present treaty of alliance, according to its own power and circumstances, there shall be no after-claim of compensation, on one side or the other, whatever may be the event of the war.

Art. 10. The most Christian King and the united states agree, to invite or admit other powers, who may have received injuries from England, to make common cause with them, and to accede to the present alliance; under such conditions as shall be freely agreed to, and settled between all the parties.

Art. 11. The two parties guarantee mutually from the present time, and forever against all other powers, to wit. The united states to his most Christian Majesty the present possessions of the crown of France in America, as well those which it may acquire by the future treaty of peace; and his most Christian Majesty guarantees on his part to the united states, their liberty, sovereignty, and independency, absolute and unlimited, as well in matters of government as commerce, and also their possessions, and the additions or conquests, that their confederation may obtain during the war, from any of the dominions now, or heretofore possessed by Great-Britain in North America; conformable to the fifth and sixth articles above written, the whole as their possession shall be fixed and assured to the said states, at the moment of the cessation of their present war with England.

Art. 12. In order to fix more precisely the sense and application of the preceding Article, the contracting parties declare, that

that in case of a rupture between France and England the reciprocal guarantee declared in the said article shall have its full force and effect, the moment such war shall break out; and if such rupture shall not take place, the mutual obligations of the said guarantee shall not commence until the moment of the cessation of the present war, between the united states and England, shall have ascertained their possessions.

Art. 13. The present Treaty shall be ratified on both sides, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months, or sooner, if possible.

In faith whereof the respective plenipotentiaries, to wit, on the part of the most Christian King, Conrad Alexander Gerard, royal Syndic of the city of Strasburg, and secretary of his Majesty's council of state, and on the part of the united states, Benjamin Franklin, deputy to the General Congress, from the state of Pennsylvania, and president of the Convention of said state; Silas Deane, heretofore deputy from the state of Connecticut; and Arthur Lee, counsellor at law, have signed the above Articles both in the French and the English languages; declaring nevertheless, that the present treaty was originally composed and concluded in the French language, and they have hereunto affixed their seals.

DONE at *Paris*, this sixth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

(L. S.)

C. A. GERARD.

(L. S.)

B. FRANKLIN.

(L. S.)

SILAS DEANE.

(L. S.)

ARTHUR LEE.

T R E A T Y

O F

A M I T Y A N D C O M M E R C E ,

*Between their HIGH MIGHTINESSES the STATES**GENERAL of the UNITED NETHERLANDS,**And the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.*

WHEREAS in pursuance of a plenipotentiary commission, given on the twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, to the Hon. John Adams, Esq; a treaty of amity and commerce, between their high mightinesses the states general of the united Netherlands, and the united states of America, was, on the eighth day of October, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, concluded by the said John Adams, with plenipotentiaries named for that purpose by their said high mightinesses the states general of the united Netherlands; and whereas the said treaty hath been this day approved and ratified by the united state in Congress assembled, as the same is contained in the words following, to wit.

THEIR High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, to wit, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia, desiring to ascertain, in a permanent & equitable manner, the rules to be observed relative to the commerce and correspondence which they intend to establish between their respective states, countries and inhabitants, have judged that the said end cannot be better obtained than by establishing the most perfect equality and reciprocity for the basis of their agreement, and by avoiding all those burthenome preferences which are usually the sources of debate, embarrassment and discontent; by leaving also each party at liberty to make respecting commerce and navigation, such ulterior regulations as it shall find most convenient to itself, and by founding the advantages of commerce solely upon reciprocal utility, and the just rules of free intercourse; reserving withal to each party the liberty of admitting, at its pleasure, other nations to a participation of the same advantages.

On these principles their said High Mightinesses the States General of the united Netherlands, have named for their plenipotentiaries, from the midst of their assembly, messieurs their deputies for foreign affairs; and the

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the said United States of America, on their part, have furnished with full powers, Mr. John Adams, late commissioner of the United States of America at the court of Versailles, heretofore delegate in Congress, from the State of Massachusetts-Bay, and chief justice of the said State; who have agreed and concluded as follows, to wit:

ART. I. There shall be a firm, inviolable and universal peace, and sincere friendship between their High Mightinesses, the Lords, the States General of the united Netherlands and the United States of America, and between the subjects and inhabitants of the said parties, and between the countries, islands, cities and places situated under the jurisdiction of the said united Netherlands and the said United States, of America, their subjects and inhabitants of every degree, without exception of persons or places.

ART. II. The subjects of the said States General of the United Netherlands, shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities or places of the United States of America, or any of them, no other nor greater duties or imposts, of whatever nature or denomination they may be, than those which the nations most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, which the said nations do or shall enjoy, whether in passing from one port to another in the said States, or in going from any of those ports to any foreign port of the world, or from any foreign port of the world to any of those ports.

ART. III. The subjects and inhabitants of the said United States of America, shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities or places of the said United Netherlands, or any of them, no other nor greater duties or imposts, of whatever nature or denomination they may be, than those which the nations most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, which the said nations do or shall enjoy, whether in passing from one port to another in the said States, or from any one towards any one of those ports, to any foreign port of the world; and the United States of America, with their subjects and inhabitants, shall leave to those of their High Mightinesses, the peaceable enjoyment of their rights in the countries, islands and seas in the East and West-Indies, without any hindrance or molestation.

ART. IV. There shall be an entire and perfect liberty of conscience allowed to the subjects and inhabitants of each party, and to their families, and no one shall be molested in regard to his worship, provided he submits as to the public demonstration of it, to the laws of the country: There shall be given moreover liberty, when any subjects or inhabitants of either party shall die in the territory of the other, to bury them in the usual burying places or in decent and convenient grounds to be appointed for that purpose, as occasion shall require: And the dead bodies of those who are buried, shall not in any wise be molested. And the two contracting parties shall provide each one in his jurisdiction, that their respective subjects and inhabitants may henceforward obtain the requisite certificates in cases of deaths in which they shall be interested.

ART. V. Their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands and the United States of America, shall endeavour, by all the means in their power, to defend and protect all vessels and other effects, belonging to their subjects and inhabitants respectively, or to any of them, in their ports, roads, havens, internal seas, passages, rivers, and as far as their jurisdiction extends at sea, and to recover and cause to be restored to the true proprietors, their agents or attornies, all such vessels and effects, which shall be taken under their jurisdiction; and their vessels of war, and convoys, in cases, when they may have a common enemy, shall take

take under their protection all vessels belonging to the subjects and inhabitants of either party, which shall not be laden with contraband goods, according to the description which shall be made of them hereafter, for places with which one of the parties is in peace, and the other at war, nor destined for any place blocked, and which shall hold the same course, or follow the same rout; and they shall defend such vessels, as long as they hold the same course, or follow the same rout, against all attacks, force and violence of the common enemy in the same manner as they ought to protect and defend the vessels belonging to their own respective subjects.

VI. That the subjects of the contracting parties may, on one side and on the other, in the respective countries and states, dispose of their effects by testament, donation, or otherwise; and their heirs, subjects of one of the parties, and residing in the country of the other, or elsewhere, shall receive such successions, even ab intestato, whether in person or by their attorney or substitute, even although they shall not have obtained letters of naturalization, without having the effect of such commission contested under pretext of any rights or prerogatives of any province, city or private person; and if the heirs, to whom such successions may have fallen, shall be minors, the tutors or curators, established by the judge domiciliary, of the said minors, may govern, direct, sell and alienate the effects fallen to the said minors, by inheritance, and in general, in relation to the successions and effects, use all the rights and functions, which belong by the disposition of the laws, to guardians, tutors, and curators: provided nevertheless, that this disposition cannot take place, but in cases where the testator shall not have named guardians, tutors, or curators by testament, codicil, or other legal instrument.

ART. VII. It shall be lawful and free for the subjects of each party, to employ such advocates, attornies, notaries, solicitors or factors, as they shall judge proper.

ART. 8. Merchants, masters and owners of ships, mariners, men of all kinds, ships and vessels, and all merchandizes and goods in general, and effects of one of the confederates, or of the subjects thereof, shall not be seized or detained in any of the countries, lands, islands, cities, places, ports, shores or dominions whatsoever of the other confederate, for any military expedition, public or private use of any one, by arrests, violence, or any colour thereof; much less shall it be permitted, to the subjects of either party, to take or extort by force, any thing from the subjects of the other party, without the consent of the owner: Which however is not to be understood of seizures, detentions and arrests, which shall be made by the command and authority of justice, and by the ordinary methods on account of debts or crimes, in respect whereof, the proceedings must be, by way of law, according to the forms of justice.

ART. 9. It is further agreed and concluded, that it shall be wholly free for all merchants, commanders of ships and other subjects and inhabitants of the contracting parties, in every place subjected to the jurisdiction of the two powers respectively, to manage themselves their own business: And moreover as to the use of interpreters or brokers, as also in relation to the loading or unloading of their vessels, and every thing which has relation thereto, they shall be, on one side and on the other, considered and treated upon the footing of natural subjects, or at least upon an equality with the most favoured nation.

ART. X. The merchant-ships of either of the parties coming from the port of an enemy, or from their own or a neutral port, may navigate freely towards any port of an enemy of the other ally: They shall be, nevertheless, held, whenever it shall be required, to exhibit, as well up-

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on the high seas as in the ports, their sea-letters and other documents, described in the twenty-fifth article, stating expressly that their effects are not of the number of those which are prohibited as contraband: And not having any contraband goods, for an enemy's port, they may freely and without hindrance, pursue their voyage towards the port of an enemy. Nevertheless it shall not be required to examine the papers of vessels conveyed by vessels of war, but credence shall be given to the word of the officer who shall conduct the convoy.

ART. XI. If by exhibiting the sea-letters and other documents described more particularly in the twenty-fifth article of this treaty, the other party shall discover there are any of those sorts of goods, which are declared prohibited and contraband, and that they are consigned for a port under the obedience of his enemy, it shall not be lawful to break up the hatches of such ship, or to open any chest, coffer, packs, casks, or other vessels found therein, or to remove the smallest parcel of her goods, whether the said vessel belongs to the subjects of their high mightinesses the states general of the United Netherlands, or to the subjects or inhabitants of the said united states of America, unless the loading be brought on shore, in presence of the officers of the court of admiralty, and an inventory thereof made, but there shall be no allowance, to sell, exchange, or alienate the same, until after that due and lawful process shall have been had against such prohibited goods of contraband, & the court of admiralty by a sentence pronounced shall have confiscated the same, saving always as well the ship itself as any other goods found therein, which are to be esteemed free, and may not be detained on pretence of their being infected by the prohibited goods, much less shall they be confiscated as lawful prize: But on the contrary when by the visitation at land, it shall be found that there are no contraband goods in the vessel, and it shall not appear by the papers that he who has taken and carried in the vessel has been able to discover any there, he ought to be condemned in all the charges, damages, and interests of them, which he shall have caused both to the owner of the vessels and to the owners and freighters of the cargoes, with which they shall be loaded, by his temerity in taking and carrying them in, declaring most expressly the free vessels shall assure the liberty of the effects with which they shall be loaded, and that this liberty shall extend itself equally to the persons who shall be found in a free vessel, who may not be taken out of her, unless they are military men actually in the service of an enemy.

ART. XII. On the contrary it is agreed, that whatever shall be found to be taken by the subjects and inhabitants of either party, on any ship belonging to the enemies of the other, or to their subjects, although it be not comprehended under the sort of prohibited goods, the whole may be confiscated, in the same manner as if it belonged to the enemy; except nevertheless, such effects and merchandizes as were put on board such vessel before the declaration of war, or in the space of six months after it, which effects shall not be in any manner subject to confiscation, but shall be faithfully and without delay restored in nature to the owners, who shall claim them or cause them to be claimed, before the confiscation and sale, as also their proceeds, if the claim could not be made but in the space of eight months after the sale, which ought to be public: provided nevertheless, that if the said merchandizes are contraband, it shall by no means be lawful to transport them afterwards to any port belonging to the enemy.

ART. XIII. And that more effectual care may be taken for the security of subjects and people of either party, that they do not suffer molestation from the vessels of war, or privateers of the other party, it shall be forbidden to all commanders of vessels of war, and other armed vessels of

the said states general of the united Netherlands and the said united states of America, as well as all their officers, subjects and people, to give any offence or do any damage to those of the other party; and if they act to the contrary, they shall be upon the first complaint which shall be made of it, being found guilty after a just examination, punished by their proper judges, and moreover obliged to make satisfaction for all damages and interests thereof, by reparation, under pain and obligation of their persons and goods.

ART. XIV. For further determining what has been said, all captains of privateers, or fitters out of vessels armed for war, under commission and on account of private persons, shall be held before their departure, to give sufficient caution before competent judges, either to be entirely responsible for the maiverations which they may commit in their cruises or voyages, as well as for the contraventions of their captains and officers against the present treaty, and against the ordinances and edicts which shall be published in consequence of, and conformity to it, under pain of forfeiture and nullity of the said commission.

ART. XV. All vessels and merchandizes of whatsoever nature, which shall be rescued out of the hands of any pirates or robbers navigating the high seas, without requisite commissions, shall be brought into some port of one of the two states, and deposited in the hands of the officers of that port, in order to be restored intire to the true proprietor, as soon as due and sufficient proof shall be made concerning the property thereof.

ART. XVI. If any ships or vessels belonging to either of the parties, their subjects or people, shall within the coasts or dominions of the other, stick upon the sands, or be wrecked or suffer any other sea damages, all friendly assistance and relief shall be given to the persons shipwrecked, or such as shall be in danger thereof; and the vessels, effects and merchandizes, or the part of them which shall have been saved, or the proceeds of them, if being perishable they shall have been sold, being claimed within a year and a day, by the masters or owners, or their agents or attorneys, shall be restored, paying only the reasonable charges, and that which must be paid, in the same case, for the salvage, by the proper subjects of the country: there shall be also delivered them safe conducts or passports for their free and safe passage from thence, and to return each one to his own country.

ART. XVII. In case the subjects or people of either party, with their shipping, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, be forced through stress of weather, pursuit of pirates or enemies, or any other urgent necessity, for seeking of shelter and harbour, to retreat and enter into any of the rivers, creeks, bays, ports roads, or shores belonging to the other party, they shall be received and treated with all humanity and kindness, and enjoy all friendly protection and help: and they shall be permitted to refresh and provide themselves at reasonable rates with victuals, and all things needful for the sustenance of their persons, or reparation of their ships, and they shall no ways be detained or hindered from returning out of the said ports or roads, but may remove and depart when and whither they please, without any let or hindrance.

ART. XVIII. For the better promoting of commerce on both sides, it is agreed, that if a war should break out between their high mightinesses the states general of the united Netherlands and the united states of America, there shall always be granted to the subjects on each side, the term of nine months after the date of the rupture, or proclamation of war; to the end that they may retire with their effects, and transport them where they please which it shall be lawful for them to do, as well

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well as to sell or transport their effects and goods in all freedom, and without any hindrance, and without being able to proceed during the said term of nine months, to any arrest of their effects, much less of their persons; on the contrary, there shall be given them, for their vessels and their effects which they would carry away, passports and safe conducts, for the nearest ports of their respective countries; and for the time necessary for the voyage, and no prize made at sea shall be adjudged lawful, at least if the declaration of war was not or could not be known, in the last port, which the vessel taken has quitted. But for whatever may have been taken from the subjects and inhabitants of either party, and for the offences which may have been given them, in the interval of the said terms, a complete satisfaction shall be given them.

ART. XIX. No subject of their high mightinesses the states general of the united Netherlands, shall apply for or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any ship or ships, to act as privateers against the said united states of America, or any of them, or the subjects and inhabitants of the said united states or any of them, or against the property of the inhabitants of any of them, from any prince or state with which the said united states of America may happen to be at war; nor shall any subject or inhabitant of the said united states of America, or any of them, apply for or take any commission or letters of marque, for arming any ship or ships, to act as privateers against the high and mighty lords, the states general of the united Netherlands, or against the subjects of their high mightinesses, or any of them, against the property of any one of them from any prince or state with which their high mightinesses may be at war, and if any person of either nation shall take such commission or letters of marque he shall be punished as a pirate.

ART. XX. If the vessels of the subjects or inhabitants of one of the parties, come upon any coast belonging to either of the said allies, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port and not willing to unload their cargoes or break bulk, or take in any cargo, they shall not be obliged to pay neither for the vessels, nor the cargoes, any duties of entry in, or out, nor to render any account of their cargoes, at least if there is not just cause to presume, that they carry to an enemy, merchandizes of contraband.

ART. XXI. The two contracting parties grant to each other mutually the liberty of having each in the ports of the other, consuls, vice-consuls, agents and commissaries, of their own appointing, whose functions shall be regulated by a particular agreement whenever either party chuse to make such appointments.

ART. XXII. This treaty shall not be understood in any manner to derogate from the ninth, tenth, nineteenth and twenty-fourth articles of the treaty with France, as they were numbered in the same treaty, concluded the sixth of February 1778, and which make the articles ninth, tenth, seventeen, and twenty-second of the treaty of commerce, now subsisting between the united states of America and the crown of France; nor shall it hinder his catholic majesty from acceding to that treaty, and enjoying the advantages of the said four articles.

ART. XXIII. If at any time the united states of America, shall judge necessary to commence negociations with the King or Emperor of Morocco and Fez, and with the Regencies of Algiers, Tunis or Tripoli, or with any of them, to obtain passports for the security of their navigation in the mediterranean sea; their high mightinesses promise that upon the requisition which the united states of America shall make of it, they will second such negociations in the most favourable manner by means of their consuls residing near the said King, Emperor and Regencies.

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ART. XXIV. The liberty of navigation and commerce shall extend to all sorts of merchandizes, excepting only those which are distinguished under the name of contraband or merchandizes prohibited: and under this denomination of contraband and merchandizes prohibited, shall be comprehended only warlike stores and arms, as mortars artillery, with their artifices and appurtenances fusils, pistols, bombs, grenades, gun-powder, salt-petre, sulphur, match, bullets and balls, pikes, sabres, lances, halberts, casques, cutlasses, and other sorts of arms; as also soldiers, horses, saddles and furniture for horses. All other effects and merchandizes, not before specified expressly, and even all sorts of naval matters, however proper they may be, for the construction and equipment of vessels of war, or for the manufacture of one or another sort of machines of war, by land or sea, shall not be judged contraband, neither by the letter, nor according to any pretended interpretation whatever, ought they, or can they be comprehended, under the notion of effects prohibited or contraband: so that all effects and merchandizes, which are not expressly before named, may without any exception, and in perfect liberty be transported, by the subjects and inhabitants of both allies, from and to places belonging to the enemy, excepting only the places which at the same time shall be besieged, blocked or invested, and those places only shall be held for such, which are surrounded nearly by some of the belligerent powers.

ART. XXV. To the end that all dissensions and quarrels may be avoided and prevented, it has been agreed, that in case that one of the two parties happens to be at war, the vessels belonging to the subjects or inhabitants of the other ally shall be provided with sea-letters or passports, expressing the name, the property, and the burthen of the vessel, as also the name and the place of abode of the master or commander of the said vessel, to the end that thereby it may appear that the vessel really and truly belongs to subjects or inhabitants of one of the parties, which passports shall be drawn and distributed according to the form annexed to this treaty; each time that the vessel shall return, she shall have such her passport renewed, or at least they ought not to be of more ancient date than two years, before the vessel has been returned to her own country.

It has been also agreed, that such vessels, being loaded, ought to be provided not only with the said passports or sea-letters, but also with a general passport, or with particular passports or manifests, naother public documents, which are ordinarily given to vessels outward-bound, in the ports from whence the vessels have set sail in the last place, containing a specification of the cargo, of the place from whence the vessel departed, and of that of her destination, or instead of all these, with certificates from the magistrates or governors of cities, places, or colonies, from whence the vessel came, given in the usual form, to the end that it may be known whether there are any effects prohibited and contraband on board the vessels, and whether they are destined to be carried to an enemy's country or not. And in case any one judges proper to express in the said documents, the persons to whom the effects on board belong, he may do it freely, without however, being bound to do it; and the omission of such expression cannot and ought not to cause a confiscation.

ART. XXVI. If the vessels of the said subjects or inhabitants of either of the parties, sailing along the coasts or on the high seas, are met by a vessel of war or privateer, or other armed vessel of the other party, the said vessels of war, privateers or armed vessels, for avoiding all disorder, shall remain without the reach of cannon, but may send their

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their boats on-board the merchant-vessel which they shall meet in this manner, upon which they may not pass more than two or three men; to whom the master or commander shall exhibit his passport, containing the property of the vessel, according to the form annexed to this treaty; and the vessel, after having exhibited such passport, sea-letter and other documents, shall be free to continue her voyage, so that it shall not be lawful to molest her, or search her in any manner, nor to give her chase, nor to force her to alter her course.

ART. XXVII. It shall be lawful for merchants, captains and commanders of vessels, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, belonging to the said united states of America, or any of them; or to their subjects and inhabitants, to take freely into their service, and receive on board of their vessels, in any port or place in the jurisdiction of their high mightinesses aforesaid, seamen or others, natives or inhabitants of any of the said states, upon such conditions as they shall agree on, without being subject for this, to any fine, penalty, punishment process or reprehension: and reciprocally, all merchants, captains and commanders, belonging to the said united Netherlands, shall enjoy, in all the ports and places under the obedience of the said united states of America, the same privilege of engaging and receiving seamen, or others, natives or inhabitants of any country of the dominion of the said states general; provided, that neither on one side nor the other, they may not take into their service, such of their countrymen who have already engaged in the service of the other party contracting, whether in war or trade, and whether they meet them by land or sea; at least if the captains or masters under the command of whom such persons may be found, will not, of his own consent, discharge them from their service, upon pain of being otherwise treated and punished as deserters.

ART. XXVIII. The affair of refraction shall be regulated in all equity and justice by the magistrates of cities respectively, where it shall be judged that there is any room to complain in this respect.

ART. XXIX. The present treaty shall be ratified and approved by their high mightinesses the states general of the united Netherlands, and by the united states of America, and the acts of ratification shall be delivered in good and due form on one side and on the other, in the space of six months or sooner if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature.

In faith of which, we the deputies and plenipotentiaries of the lords the states general of the united Netherlands, and the minister plenipotentiary of the united states of America, in virtue of our respective authorities and full powers, have signed the present treaty and apposed thereto the seals of our arms. Done at the Hague, the 8th of October, 1732.

The form of the passport which shall be given to ships and vessels in consequence of the 25th article of this Treaty.

To all who shall see these presents greeting: Be it known that leave and permission are hereby given to _____ master and commander of the ship or vessel called _____ of the burden of _____ tons, bound for _____ and laden with _____ to depart and proceed with his said ship or vessel on his said voyage,

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age, such ship or vessel having been visited, and the said master and commander having made oath before the proper officer, that the said ship or vessel belongs to one or more of the subjects, people or inhabitants of and to him or them only. In witness whereof we have subscribed our names to these presents, and affixed the seal of our arms thereto, and caused the same to be countersigned by at this day of in the year of our Lord Christ.

Form of the certificate which shall be given to ships or vessels in consequence of the 25th article of this Treaty.

We magistrates or officers of the customs of the city or port of do certify and attest, that on the day of in the year of our Lord C. D. of personally appeared before us, and declared by solemn oath, that the ship or vessel called of tons or thereabouts, where of of is at present master or commander, does rightfully and properly belong to him or them only.—That she is now bound from the city or port of to the port of laden with goods and merchandizes, hereunder particularly described and enumerated as follows :

in witness whereof, we have signed this certificate, and sealed it with the seal of our office, this day of in the year of our Lord Christ.

Form of the S E A - L E T T E R.

MOST serene, serene, most puissant, puissant, high, illustrious, noble, honorable, venerable, wise and prudent Lords, Emperors, Kings, Republics, Princes, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Lords, Burgomasters, Schepens, Councillors, as also Judges, Officers, Justiciaries, and Regents, of all the good cities and places, whether ecclesiastical or secular, who shall see these patents, or hear them read :—We Burgomasters and Regents of the city of make known, that the master of appearing before us, has declared upon oath, that the vessel called of the burthen of about lasts, which he at present navigates, is of the united provinces, and that no subjects of the enemy have any part or portion therein, directly nor indirectly, so may God Almighty help him ; and as we wish to see the said master prosper in his lawful affairs, our prayer is, to all the before mentioned, and to each of them separately, where the said master shall arrive, with his vessel and cargo, that they may please to receive the said master with goodness, and to treat him in a becoming manner, permitting him

him upon the usual tolls and expences, in passing and repassing, to pass, navigate and frequent the ports, passes and territories, to the end, to transact his business, where and in what manner he shall judge proper, whereof we shall be willingly indebted.

In witness, and for cause whereof we affix hereto the seal of this city.

(In the Margin.)

By ordinance of the High and Mighty Lords, the States General of the United Netherlands.

And whereas a convention, concerning vessels recaptured, was at the place and on the day above-mentioned, concluded by the said minister plenipotentiary, on the part of these United States, with the said plenipotentiaries on the part of the said Lords, the States general of the United Netherlands: and the same hath been this day approved and ratified by the United States in Congress assembled, as it is contained in the words following, to wit.

CONVENTION between the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, concerning vessels recaptured.

T H E Lords, the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, being inclined to establish some uniform principles, with relation to prizes made by vessels of war, and commissioned by the two contracting powers, upon their common enemies, and to vessels of the subjects of either party, captured by the enemy, and recaptured by vessels of war commissioned by either party; have agreed upon the following articles.

Art. 1. **T**HE vessels of either of the two nations, recaptured by the privateers of the other, shall be restored to the first proprietor, if such vessels have not been four and twenty hours in the power of the enemy; provided the owner of the vessel recaptured pay therefor one third of the value of the vessel, as also of that of the cargo, the cannons and apparel; which third shall be valued by agreement between the parties interested, or if they cannot agree thereon themselves, they shall address themselves to the officers of the admiralty of the place where

where the privateer, who has retaken the vessel, shall have conducted her.

Art. 2. If the vessel recaptured has been more than twenty-four hours in the power of the enemy, she shall belong, entirely, to the privateer who has retaken her.

Art. 3. In case a vessel shall have been recaptured by a vessel of war belonging to the states general of the united Netherlands, or to the united states of America, she shall be restored to the first owner, he paying a third with part of the value of the ship, her cargo, cannons and apparel, if she has been recaptured in the interval of twenty-four hours, and the tenth part if she has been recaptured after the twenty-four hours: which sums shall be distributed in form of gratifications to the crews of the vessels which shall have retaken her. — The valuation of the said thirtieth parts and tenth parts shall be regulated according to the tenor of the first article of the present convention.

Art. 4. The restitution of prizes, whether they may have been retaken by vessels of war or by privateers in the mean time, and until requisite and sufficient proofs can be given of the property of vessels recaptured, shall be admitted in a reasonable time, under sufficient sureties for the observation of the aforesaid articles.

Art. 5. The vessels of war and privateers of one and of the other of the two nations, shall be reciprocally, both in Europe and in the other parts of the world, admitted in the respective ports of each, with their prizes, which may be unloaded and sold according to the formalities used in the state where the prize shall have been conducted, as far as may be consistent with the twenty-second article of the treaty of commerce: provided always, that the legality of prizes, by the vessels of the low-countries, shall be decided conformably to the laws and regulations established in the united Netherlands; as likewise, that of prizes made by American vessels, shall be judged according to the laws and regulations determined by the united states of America.

Art. 6. Moreover it shall be free for the states-general of the united Netherlands, as well as for the united states of America, to make such regulations as they shall judge necessary, relative to the conduct which their respective vessels and privateers ought to hold in relation to the vessels which they

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they shall have taken and conducted into the ports of the of the two powers.

In faith of which, we, the deputies and plenipotentiaries of the lords the states general of the united Netherlands, and minister plenipotentiary of the united states of America, have in virtue of our respective authorities and full powers, signed these presents, and confirmed the same with the seal of our arms.

Done at the Hague, the 8th of October, 1782.

NOW therefore to the end that the said treaty and convention may, with all good faith, be performed and observed on the part of these united states, all the citizens and inhabitants thereof, and more especially all captains, and other officers and seamen belonging to any vessels of war of these united states or any of them, or of any private armed vessel commissioned by Congress are hereby enjoined and required to govern themselves strictly in all things according to the stipulations above recited.

DONE in Congress this twenty-third day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and of our sovereignty and independence the seventh.

ELIAS BOUDINOT, President.

CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

The DEFINITIVE TREATY

P E A C E

Between GREAT-BRITAIN and AMERICA.

WHEREAS reciprocal advantages and mutual conveniencies are found by experience, to form the only permanent foundation of peace and friendship between states, it is agreed to form the articles of the proposed treaty on such principles of liberal equity and reciprocity, as that partial advantages, those seeds of discord, being excluded, such a beneficial and satisfactory intercourse between the two countries may be established, as to promise and secure to both perpetual peace and harmony.

ART. 1. His Britanic Majesty acknowledges the said united states, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence

dence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free, sovereign and independent states: that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, proprietary, and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof; and that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said united states, may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz.

ART. 2. From the north-west angle of Nova-Scotia, viz. That angle which is formed by a line drawn due North from the source of St. Croix river to the High Lands along the Highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river, thence down along the middle of that river to the 45th degree of N. Lat. from thence by a line due west on said Lat. until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cataraquy, thence along the middle of said river into lake Ontario, through the middle of said lake until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and lake Erie, thence along the middle of said communication into lake Erie, through the middle of said lake until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and lake Huron; thence along the middle of said water communication into the lake Huron, thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and lake Superior, thence through lake Superior northward of the Isles Royal and Philippeaux to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said lake of the woods; thence through the said lake to the northwestern point thereof, and from thence on a due West course, to the river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st. degree of N. Lat. South by a line to be drawn due East from the determination of a line last mentioned, on the Lat. of 31 degrees North of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catahouchi; thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint river; thence straight to the head of St. Mary's river, and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's river to the Atlantic ocean; East by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly North to the aforesaid Highlands which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from those which fall into the river St. Lawrence, comprehending all islands within 20 leagues of any part of the shores of the united states, and lying between lines, to be drawn due East from the points where the aforesaid boundaries between Nova-Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean, excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been, within the limits of the said Province of Nova Scotia.

ART. 3. It is agreed that the people of the united states, shall continue to enjoy, unmolested the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Bank, and on the Banks of Newfoundland, also in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and at all other places in the sea, where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish; and also that the inhabitants of the united states, shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland, as British fishermen shall use, (but not to dry or cure the same on that island) and also on the coasts, bays and creeks of all other of his Britannic Majesty's dominions

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nions in America; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalene Islands and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unsettled; but so soon as the same, or either of them, shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlements, without a previous agreement for that purpose, with the inhabitants, proprietors or possessors of the ground.

ART. 4. It is agreed that the creditors on either side, shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value in sterling money, of all bona fide debts heretofore contracted.

ART. 5. It is agreed that Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective states to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights and properties, of persons resident in districts, in the possession of his Majesty's arms, and who have not born arms against the said united states, and that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the thirteen united states, and therein to remain twelve months unmolested in their endeavours to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties as may have been confiscated, and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states a re-consideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent, not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation which on the return of the blessings of peace should universally prevail; and that Congress should also earnestly recommend to the several states, that the estates, rights and properties of such last mentioned persons, should be restored to them, they refunding to any persons who may be now in possession, the bona fide price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights or properties, since the confiscation. And it is agreed that all persons who have any interest in confiscated lands, either by debts, marriage, settlements or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

ART. 6. That there shall be no future confiscations made nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons, for or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war, and that no person shall on that account suffer any future loss or damage, either in his person, liberty or property, and that those who may be now in confinement, on such charges at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecution so commenced, be discontinued.

ART. 7. There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said states, and between the subjects of the one and the citizens of the other; wherefore all hostilities both by sea and land shall then immediately cease; all prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic Majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons and fleets from the said united states, and from every port, place & harbour within the same, leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein; and shall also order and cause all archives, records, deeds and papers belonging to any of the said states or their citizens, which in the course of the war have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper states and persons to whom they belong.

ART. 7. The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall forever remain free and open to the subjects of Great-Britain and the citizens of the united states.

Treaty of Peace.

ART. 9. In case it should so happen, that any place or territory belonging to Great-Britain or to the united states, should be conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of these articles in America, it is agreed that the same shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

Done at Paris, November 30, 1782.

RICHARD OSWALD,	(L. S.)
JOHN ADAMS,	(L. S.)
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,	(L. S.)
JOHN JAY,	(L. S.)
HENRY LAURENS,	(L. S.)

Witness,

Signed, {	CALEB WITFORD, Secretary to the British commission.
	W. T. FRANKLIN, Secretary to the American commission.

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